



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, February 19, 2014



President Barack Obama speaks about how having a fuel-efficient truck fleet can boost the economy and help combat climate change, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at the Safeway Distribution Center in Upper Marlboro, Md. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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Obama Requests New Rules for Cutting Truck Pollution



VENEZUELA CRISIS:
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Venezuela: Opposition leader arrested amid supporters

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez emerged from days of hiding and surrendered to police before thousands of supporters Tuesday, saying he hopes his arrest awakens Venezuela to the corruption and economic disaster caused by 15 years of socialist rule. Speaking with a megaphone to more than 10,000 people, Lopez said that he didn't fear going to jail to defend his beliefs and constitutional right to peacefully protest against President

clashed with protesters. He faces charges including homicide and vandalism of public property.

The threat of more violence hung over Tuesday's demonstration as Maduro led a rival march to denounce what he calls a "fascist" plot to overthrow him. But Lopez's repeated appeals for restraint, a strong police presence and heavy rain appeared to calm emotions and there were no reports of major violence.

After a short speech, Lopez descended from a statue

oversaw security arrangements to make sure the opposition march and Lopez's surrender didn't generate violence.

"Nobody has the right to subject families to street violence by small, armed and hooded groups that today, the 18th of February, wanted to overthrow the government," Maduro said, accusing Lopez of "psychological warfare" and treason. "In Venezuela everyone has full political freedoms."

Maduro said Lopez would



Draped in a Venezuelan national flag, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, second from right, is surrounded by anti-government demonstrators and media, just before Lopez surrenders to national guards, in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Feb 18, 2014. Lopez re-emerged from days of hiding to address an anti-government demonstration and then surrendered to authorities Tuesday in a move that he said will open the world's eyes to the increasingly authoritarian bent of Venezuela's socialist government.

(AP Photo/Juan Manuel Hernandez)

Nicolas Maduro's government.

"If my jailing serves to awaken a people, serves to awaken Venezuela ... then it will be well worth the infamous imprisonment imposed upon me directly, with cowardice, by Nicolas Maduro," Lopez told the sea of supporters who were dressed in white to symbolize non-violence. Venezuela's red, yellow and blue flag hung from his shoulders.

Lopez is being charged with inciting the violence during protests last week in which three people were killed as government forces

of 19th century Cuban independence hero Jose Marti, and waving a flower over his head walked a few feet to a police line, where he turned himself in to face what supporters say are trumped-up charges.

His fist raised in defiance, Lopez was pulled into an armored vehicle and driven away. A cordon of heavily armed police blocked supporters from marching downtown as they had originally planned.

Hours after the arrest, Maduro addressed the rival crowd of red-shirted, pro-government oil workers, and said he personally

be escorted to a jail outside Caracas by National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, who in recent days met with the opposition leader's family to warn them of an attempt by right-wing extremists to assassinate him. He didn't provide any details or evidence to back up the claim.

The dueling rallies came one day after Maduro's government gave three U.S. Embassy officials 48 hours to leave the country, claiming they were supporting opposition plots to topple his 10-month-old administration. □

Colombia military chief fired over 'disrespectful remarks'

LIBARDO CARDONA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's president fired his armed forces chief Tuesday for verbally maligning and suggesting action be taken against prosecutors investigating military officers accused in extrajudicial killings of civilians.

President Juan Manuel Santos told reporters that Gen. Leonardo Barrero was being relieved for "disrespectful remarks" against the judiciary and nation in a phone conversation published over the weekend. Santos' defense minister later announced that the current army chief, Gen. Juan Pablo Rodriguez, would replace Barrero.

The conversation that cost Barrero his job was recorded by prosecutors investigating graft by senior officers in allegedly inflated military contracts and was revealed by the newsmagazine *Semana*.

Santos made it clear that Barrero was not being fired for corruption, although four generals, including the army's second highest-ranking officer, were forcibly retired Tuesday in connection with the contracts scandal.

In one recording, Barrero is heard telling a colonel jailed in an extrajudicial killings case that such prosecutions are "a bunch of crap" and suggesting that he and others "organize a mafia" to discredit the officials involved.

Colombian soldiers, the vast majority enlisted men, have been convicted of nearly 900 extrajudicial slayings, dressing victims in fatigues and falsely presenting them as guerrillas killed in combat.

The victims in the cases, known as "false positives," were mostly down-on-their-luck men lured to their deaths with bogus job promises. They were slain to boost the body count of supposed rebels killed in Colombia's long-running conflict.

The killings occurred principally over the decade ending in 2008, when the scandal broke open and 27 officers were fired, three of them generals. Santos was defense minister then.

The graft investigation that *Semana* reported on grew out of a probe into extrajudicial killings. Jorge Perdomo, the No. 2 official in the chief prosecutor's office, said Monday.

Hours earlier, the army's former head of aviation had retired. His name was among those mentioned in hundreds of hours of recordings that *Semana* said it obtained. The magazine's cover story said some of the money allegedly skimmed from military procurement contracts benefited officers facing criminal prosecution in "false positives" cases.

The scandal is the second this month to shake Colombia's military, which has received strong U.S. backing in training, technology and intelligence for well over a decade that has helped it weaken leftist rebels.

The first scandal, also disclosed by *Semana*, involved spying by an elite army cyber-unit on the email and text messages of government negotiators in peace talks with Colombia's main leftist rebel movement to end a 50-year-old conflict, the last of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

Opposition lawmakers complained the scandals could hurt the peace talks, which began in November 2012 and which Santos hopes to complete after winning re-election in a May vote.

But one former senior military officer, retired air force chief Hector Fabio Velasco, said Tuesday that he had no doubt this month's scandals were brought to light with Santos' authorization. □

Bad weather causes more flight delays

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — More than 700 U.S. flights were canceled and about 4,400 were running late Tuesday as a winter storm swept across the Northeast.

Adding to travelers' woes: United Airlines experienced problems with its computer system used to check in passengers, print boarding passes and get baggage tags.

By early evening, about 650 United flights and another 1,000 flights on regional affiliate United Express had arrived late or were behind schedule, according to tracking service FlightAware.com. United said that most of the delays were due to the computer problems.

Spokeswoman Jennifer Dohm told The Associated Press that the airline fixed the problem and was working to get passengers to their destinations.

United wasn't the only airline struggling to stay on schedule Tuesday. Southwest spokeswoman Michelle Agnew said the delays were caused by the winter storm in the Northeast and high winds that temporarily grounded flights in Denver, a key outpost for the airline. Southwest's on-time rating has fallen sharply — dropping to last in government rankings — since August, when it began packing more flights into peak hours of the day.

Snow and ice snarled air traffic in the Northeast. By early evening, more than 100 departures had been canceled at Newark Liberty Airport in New Jersey and dozens more at New York's LaGuardia Airport and in Philadelphia and Boston.

Several big storms have slammed travelers this winter. U.S. airlines have canceled more than 78,000 domestic flights since Dec. 1, the highest number since the government started keeping records in the winter of 1987-1988. □

CBO: Wage hike would raise pay for 16.5M

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Boosting the U.S. minimum wage as President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats are proposing would increase earnings for more than 16.5 million people by 2016 but also cut employment by roughly 500,000 workers, Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst said Tuesday.

The report by the Congressional Budget Office was released as the Senate prepares to debate a Democratic proposal to gradually boost today's \$7.25 hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016.

The proposal is backed by Obama, but faces strong Republican opposition and long odds of approval by Congress.

The analysis immediately added fuel to the partisan dispute over the proposal. It put authoritative weight behind long-time Republican claims that increasing the minimum wage would cost jobs by forcing companies to spend more on wages.

"This report confirms what we've long known: While helping some, mandating higher wages has real costs, including fewer peo-

ple working," said Brendan Buck, spokesman for Republican House Speaker John Boehner.

"With unemployment Americans' top concern, our focus should be creating — not destroying — jobs for those who need them

economy as low-paid employees spend more money. Sen. Tom Harkin, author of the Senate legislation, cited other research concluding that a higher minimum wage would create jobs, not reduce them.

"And as the CBO report

of the minimum wage increase, there would be 900,000 fewer people living below the federal poverty line.

The CBO study examined a proposal similar to Harkin's and focused on the plan's impact in late 2016, when



Labor Secretary Thomas Perez listens at left as he is introduced by White House press secretary Jay Carney before speaking about the minimum wage increase for federal contract workers, which will go into effect next year, at the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

most."

Democrats have said such claims are overblown and outweighed by the benefits to workers and the overall

affirms, an increase in the minimum wage will help lift families out of poverty," Harkin said.

The report said as a result

it would take full effect. After 2016, Harkin's bill would require the minimum wage to be increased annually to reflect rising inflation. □

Nun, 84, gets prison for nuke plant protest

TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee

(AP) — An 84-year-old nun was sentenced Tuesday to nearly three years in prison for breaking into a U.S. nuclear weapons complex and defacing a bunker holding bomb-grade uranium, a demonstration that exposed serious security flaws. Two other activists who broke into the facility with Megan Rice were sentenced to more than five years in prison, in part because they had much longer criminal histories of mostly non-violent civil disobedience.

Although officials claimed there was never any danger of the protesters reaching materials that could be detonated or made into

a dirty bomb, the break-in raised questions about the safekeeping at the Y-12 National Security Com-

plex. The facility holds the nation's primary supply of bomb-grade uranium.

After the protest, the com-



In this May 2013 photo, anti-nuclear weapons activist Sister Megan Rice (center) arrives for her trial in Knoxville, Tenn. Sister Rice was sentenced Tuesday, February 18, 2014, to nearly three years in prison for breaking into a U.S. nuclear weapons complex and defacing a bunker holding bomb-grade uranium.

(AP Photo/J. Miles Cary)

plex had to be shut down, security forces were retrained and contractors were replaced.

In her closing statement, Rice asked the judge to sentence her to life in prison, even though sentencing guidelines called for about six years.

"Please have no leniency with me," she said. "To remain in prison for the rest of my life would be the greatest gift you could give me." Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli all said God was using them to raise awareness about nuclear weapons and they viewed their break-in as a miracle.

They had been found guilty of sabotaging the plant and damaging federal property. □

Obama requests new rules for cutting truck pollution

CORAL DAVENPORT

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Tuesday directed the Environmental Protection Agency to develop new regulations by March 2016 to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas pollution from truck tailpipes.

U.S. car and truck manufacturers have lobbied heavily against aggressive increases in federal fuel economy standards, saying that they could increase vehicle prices and diminish safety.

A White House statement said that the EPA would work closely with the Transportation Department and with truck manufacturers as it prepared the rules.

Pollution from transportation is the nation's second-

largest source of greenhouse gas pollution. In 2011,

the EPA issued its first round of fuel-economy regulations for U.S. trucks and heavy-duty vehicles built in the model years 2014-18, which the agency projects will reduce carbon pollution by 270 million metric tons, or the equivalent of taking 56 million passenger vehicles off the road for a year.

Obama will tell the EPA on Tuesday to prepare the next round of truck model standards.

Obama's direction is among several executive actions he is taking on climate change, absent movement from Congress. He has also directed the EPA to issue by June 1 a draft regulation to rein in



President Barack Obama speaks at a distribution center for Safeway stores in Upper Marlboro, Md., Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014. The president says having a more fuel-efficient truck fleet will boost the economy and help combat climate change.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

carbon pollution from existing coal-fired power plants, the nation's largest source of carbon pollution.

Although Obama has been harshly criticized by Republicans for using executive authority to crack down on carbon pollution, he has the legal authority to do so under the 1970 Clean Air Act, which requires the EPA to regulate any substance designated as a pollutant that harms or endangers human health. In 2009, the EPA determined that carbon dioxide, emitted in large quantities from tailpipes and smokestacks, meets that definition. □

'Pandemonium' reported on US flight

MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Montana (AP)

— Violent turbulence triggered "pandemonium" aboard a United Airlines flight in the U.S. and sent passengers and crew flying through the cabin, according to company representatives and passengers. Federal safety officials said Tuesday they were looking into the incident that left three crew members and two passengers injured.. Drinks had just been served and passengers were moving around the cabin on Flight 1676 from Denver to Montana on Monday when the plane started to

lurch, said passenger Ejay Old Bull.

"It was a solid 20 seconds of pandemonium," said Old Bull, a 26-year-old graduate student. "What really hurt people and what really got everyone panicked was when the plane tipped to the right and dropped for about four or five seconds. That's when people started praying."

Old Bull said he watched his seatmate crash head-first into the overhead luggage bin and briefly lose consciousness, and a crew member was bouncing around in the galley just behind his seat. □

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Ex-soldier convicted of killing Iraqi family dies

BRETT BARROUQUERE

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— A former soldier convicted in 2009 of raping and killing a teenage Iraqi girl and using a shotgun to gun down her family died in an Arizona prison over the weekend in what officials suspect was a suicide.

Steven Dale Green was the first American soldier charged and convicted under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act — a law signed in 2000 that gives the federal government jurisdiction to pursue criminal cases against American citizens and soldiers for acts committed in foreign lands. A federal jury spared Green a death sentence in May 2009, but a judge ordered him to serve multiple life sentences.

The federal Bureau of Prisons spokesman John Stahley said staff members at the federal penitentiary in Tucson, Arizona, found 28-year-old Steven Dale Green of Midland, Texas, unresponsive in his cell on Saturday. Stahley said Green's death is being investigated as a suicide.

Green was a private in the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line when he deployed to Iraq.

Green and three other soldiers went to the home of an Iraqi family in Mahmudiya, Iraq, near a traffic checkpoint in March 2006.

At the home, Green shot and killed three members of the al-Janabi family before becoming the third soldier to rape 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi before killing her.

Three other soldiers, Jesse Spielman, Paul Cortez and James Barker, are serving

lengthy sentences in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for their roles in the attack. Each is eligible for parole in 2015. Green was discharged from the military in May 2006 after being found to have a personality disorder.

In multiple interviews from prison with The Associated Press, Green frequently expressed regret at taking part in the attack and frustration that he was tried and convicted in the civilian system, which does not afford inmates parole, while the others involved went through the military justice system and have a chance to be released from prison.

"I was made to pay for all the war crimes. I'm the only one here in federal prison," Green said in an October 2013 interview. "I think they plan to throw away the key in my situation."

The attack on the al-Janabi family happened at a particularly violent point in the U.S.-led Iraq war. Green and his fellow soldiers were stationed for several weeks at a traffic checkpoint near Mahmudiya in an area known as the "Triangle of Death" when, after an afternoon of card playing, sex talk and drinking Iraqi whiskey, the four soldiers went to the al-Janabi home about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Baghdad.

Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then followed Cortez and Barker in raping the girl before shooting her in the face. Her body was set on fire. Spielman told The Associated Press he didn't know what the other soldiers had planned and merely stood watch near the front of the house. □



In this April 2009 file photo, former 101st Airborne Division Pfc. Steven Dale Green is escorted to the courthouse on the third day of his trial in Paducah, Ky. Green, convicted of raping and killing a teenage Iraqi girl and using a shotgun to kill her family, died in prison in Arizona earlier this week, likely of suicide.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

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Woman jailed, accused of not returning video

PICKENS, South Carolina

(AP) — It was not a pile of late fees a woman got when a video store owner said she failed to return a video she rented in 2005. Instead, she spent a night in jail.

Kayla Michelle Finley, 27, of South Carolina was arrested Thursday and charged with failing to return a rented video cassette, ac-

cording to police.

Police said Finley rented the movie "Monster-in-Law" from Dalton Videos nearly a decade ago. The owner took out a warrant against Finley, who was arrested when she was at the sheriff's office for something else and the warrant was found.

Police said Finley had been sent several certified letters

at the time, but the woman told WHNS-TV that she never got the letters and that she will fight the charge. The video store has since closed.

Finley spent Thursday night in jail and was released Friday on a \$2,000 personal recognizance bond, according to authorities. If convicted, she could face up to 30 days in jail and

\$500 in court fines.

Finley is scheduled to appear in court in March, and court records listed no attorney for her. Authorities did not immediately return a message Tuesday seeking more information on her case, and working phone numbers for Finley and the defunct store's owner could not be found.□

Pharmacy won't give drug for inmate execution

J. JUOZAPAVICIUS

TIM TALLEY

Associated Press

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP)

— A U.S. pharmacy will not provide a drug for a scheduled execution next week in Missouri as part of a settlement with the death row inmate's attorneys. But it's unclear whether the agreement will prevent or delay the lethal injection.

Execution drugs have become increasingly difficult to obtain by states that still have the death penalty because major drug makers stopped selling pharmaceuticals for use in executions. Many states, like Missouri, have turned to compounding pharmacies, which manufacture drugs for individual clients.

Attorneys for death row inmate Michael Taylor had filed a lawsuit against The Apothecary Shoppe, a compounding pharmacy in Oklahoma that they said was providing a drug that could cause "inhumane pain" during his Feb. 26 execution.

Taylor is on death row for raping and killing a 15-year-old after abducting her from a school bus stop in 1989. Another man also is on death row for the crime. In court documents filed late Monday, his lawyers asked a judge to dismiss the case because the company had agreed not to prepare or pro-

vide any drug for use in Taylor's lethal injection. The pharmacy also acknowledged it had not already provided any drug to the Missouri Department of Corrections for the execution, said Taylor's attorney, Matt Hellman.

However, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon indicated last week that the state

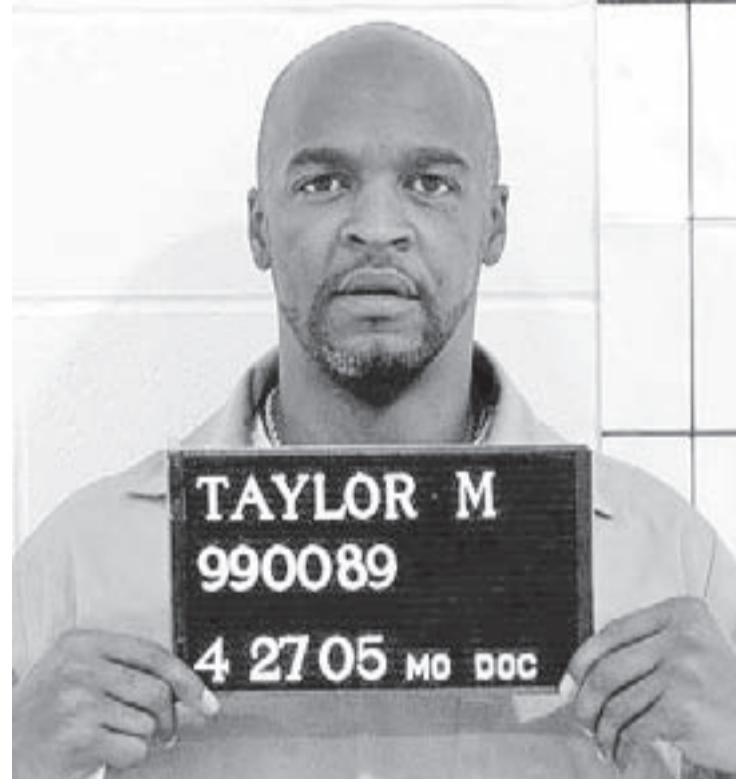
"no" when asked if Missouri had enough drugs for the execution, but he stressed that the Department of Corrections was prepared.

In their lawsuit, Taylor's attorneys alleged that Missouri turned to The Apothecary Shoppe to supply compounded pentobarbital because the only licensed

uary 2012 from a Danish company that had produced it under the trade name Nembutal. Missouri has refused to say where it obtains its execution drug, arguing that the source is part of the execution team and therefore shielded from public disclosure. The Apothecary Shoppe won't confirm that it supplies a compounded version of pentobarbital to Missouri for use in lethal injections. Taylor's attorneys say the cloak of secrecy surrounding how Missouri obtains its execution drug raises concerns. Unlike major drug companies, compounding pharmacies are not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The suit alleges that several recent executions in which compounded pentobarbital was used showed it would likely cause Taylor "severe, unnecessary, lingering and ultimately inhumane pain."

Messages seeking comment about the settlement and Taylor's execution status weren't returned late Monday by Missouri's attorney general or its Corrections Department. Messages also were left after business hours with the pharmacy and its attorney. The office of U.S. District Judge Terence C. Kern said a hearing that had been scheduled for Tuesday was canceled.□



In this handout photo from the Missouri Correctional offices, Michael Anthony Taylor of Kansas City is shown. The Apothecary Shoppe, of Tulsa, submitted a sealed response to Taylor's lawsuit accusing it of illegally providing Missouri with a made-to-order drug to be used in his lethal injection. The company hasn't publicly acknowledged that it supplies a compounded version of pentobarbital to Missouri for use in lethal injections, as Taylor alleges, and says it can't because of a Missouri law requiring the identities of those on the state's execution team to be kept confidential.

could move forward with the execution even after the judge issued a temporary restraining order that blocked the company from providing the drug. He did not directly say "yes" or

manufacturer of the drug refuses to provide it for lethal injections. The U.S. manufacturer, Akorn Inc., agreed to that condition when it bought the exclusive rights to the drug in Jan-

Whistle-blower fired from US nuclear project

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Washington (AP)

— A whistle-blower who raised safety concerns at the most polluted nuclear weapons production site in the U.S. was fired Tuesday from her job at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Donna Busche's complaints are part of a string of whistle-blower and other claims related to the design and safety of the waste treatment plant at Hanford, created by the federal government in the 1940s as part of the top-secret project to build the atomic bomb. Today, it is the nation's most contaminated nuclear site, where cleanup costs about \$2 billion each year.

Busche, 50, said she was called into the office Tuesday morning and told she was being fired for cause. "I turned in my key and turned in my badge and left the building," Busche told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Richland, where Hanford is located.

Busche worked for a subcontractor of Bechtel National Inc., which is building a \$12 billion plant to turn Hanford's most dangerous wastes into glass. Construction of the plant has been halted over safety concerns.

Busche has filed complaints with the federal government alleging she has suffered retaliation since filing her original safety complaint in 2011.

Bechtel officials, who in the past said her complaints lacked merit, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Officials for the U.S. Department of Energy, which owns Hanford, also did not immediately return telephone messages.

Busche, who worked at the plant for nearly five years, said she had been expecting to be fired for the past month as her treatment worsened. That included co-workers who did not make eye contact, interrupted her when she spoke or performed her duties.□



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US Financial Front:

American homebuilder confidence sinks in February

ALEX VEIGA

AP Real Estate Writer

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the housing market declined sharply this month as the severe weather battering much of the nation keeps many would-be buyers at home. Storms and cold weather dampened builders' outlook for sales ahead of the spring home-selling season and could further slow the pace of home construction.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Tuesday slid to 46. That's down from January's reading of 56 and is the lowest level since May. Readings below 50 indicate that more builders view sales conditions as

poor rather than good. Builders' view of current sales conditions for single-family homes, their outlook for sales over the next six months and traffic by prospective buyers have all declined since January. The overall index had been above 50 since June, reflecting a strengthening housing market. The latest reading complicates the outlook for sales just as the annual spring buying season ramps up. Typically, the spring season sets the pattern for residential hiring and construction in the ensuing months.

Sales of new homes jumped 16.4 percent last year to 428,000, the highest level in five years. Sales typically slow in November and December. But this

winter's onslaught of snowfall and freezing temperatures has exacerbated the seasonal slowdown. Economists predict that sales of new homes fell for the third

month in a row in January. The builder survey adds to reports showing that severe weather this winter has taken a toll on the economy. Auto sales fell 2.1 percent

in January and posted their first year-over-year drop in sales since August 2010. Retail sales also tumbled last month after a smaller decline in December.

"The weather also hurt retail and auto sales, and this had a contributing effect on demand for new homes," said David Crowe, the NAHB's chief economist.

Builders also continue to grapple with a shortage of skilled workers and ready-to-build land and delays in obtaining building materials, Crowe noted.

Those factors and the weather dimmed the outlook for some of the respondents polled in the latest NAHB survey, which included responses from 321 builders. □



Trevor Davis puts concrete on stone for the foundation of a new home, in Pepper Pike, Ohio. The National Association of Home Builders reported on sentiment among U.S. builders on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

US credit card late payments up in 4Q from 3Q

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Many Americans took on more credit card debt and failed to make timely payments in the final quarter of 2013, when consumers typically crank up spending on holiday shopping.

Even so, the national late-payment rate remained close to its lowest level in six years, credit reporting agency TransUnion said Tuesday.

The rate of credit card payments at least 90 days overdue was 1.48 percent in the October-December quarter. That's up from 1.36 percent in the previous three-month period, but down from 1.61 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, the firm said.

Average card debt per borrower rose 1.7 percent

from the third quarter to an average of \$5,325. It slipped 1 percent from a year earlier.

A sequential uptick in late payments and card balances is common in the fourth quarter, which coincides with the holiday shopping season. Many consumers use cards to supplement their spending and often put off making timely payments until the following year.

The latest card delinquency rate remains below the average rate of about 2.2 percent going back to 2007. The lowest card payment rate on the firm's books was set in the second quarter last year at 1.27 percent. The firm draws its figures from data culled from virtually every U.S. consumer who uses credit.

TransUnion projects the credit card delinquency rate will increase to around 1.57 percent in the January-March period.

Borrowing on credit cards plunged after the Great Recession as financial institutions tightened lending standards and households

became more cautious about taking on high-interest debt at a time when millions of people were losing their jobs. □

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US olive oil producers press for import standards

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — European brands of olive oil are more popular with American shoppers than the U.S.-produced kind because they view the foreign version as cheaper and more authentic.

Ket five years ago to 3 percent today. Most of that is in California, though there are smaller operations in Texas, Georgia and a few other states. U.S. producers are seeking to build on that growth in a struggle reminiscent of the California wine industry's

The provision backed by California lawmakers would have allowed the Agriculture Department to extend mandatory quality controls for the domestic industry to imports. The bill's language would have allowed government testing of domestic and imported

the bill on the House floor, an effort led by lawmakers from New York, where many of the country's olive oil importers are based. They had the backing of food companies and grocery stores that use and sell olive oil.

Republican Rep. Doug La-

Re. Michael Grimm said his Greek-American and Italian-American constituents know good oil and haven't had problems.

"It's not rancid," he said. "There is always going to be a problem in every industry, but this is nothing more than a multimillion-dollar earmark," he added, using the term for special provisions that sometimes are inserted into legislation. In the end, the final farm bill signed by President Barack Obama earlier this month was silent on olive oil.

But a nonbinding statement accompanying the bill encouraged the Agriculture Department, the U.S. Trade Representative and the Food and Drug Administration to "remove the obstacles that are preventing the U.S. olive oil industry from reaching its potential." It cited a 2013 U.S. International Trade Commission report that said international standards are widely unenforced and allow many varieties to be mislabeled and possibly even adulterated.

The report also cited subsidies for European olive oil producers and tariffs as barriers to the domestic industry's success.

The California olive oil industry boasted of helping to influence the report. According to the American Olive Oil Producers Association, California producers arranged farm tours for federal investigators, arranged for witnesses to testify to the group, and even held an olive-oil tasting for lawmakers and administration officials.

For now, the domestic industry says it will keep pushing. Kimberly Houlding, executive director of the American Olive Oil Producers Association, says producers are still considering petitioning the Agriculture Department for an order to establish mandatory quality standards, including frequent testing. Ideally the order would apply to the entire domestic industry, including importers, Houlding says.

Eryn Balch of the North American Olive Oil Association. □



This photo taken Feb. 12, 2014 shows California Olive Oil Council Executive Director Patricia Darragh posing with a collection of California olive oil at the All Things Olive shop in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

But U.S. producers contend that "extra virgin" olive oil from Europe may not be as pure as buyers think. They have asked the federal government to intervene by imposing stricter standards on the imports, which now make up 97 percent of the market. Olive oil production is steadily growing, and the domestic industry says it has gone from 1 percent of the national olive oil mar-

push to gain acceptance decades ago. They've mounted an aggressive push in Washington, holding olive oil tastings for members of Congress and lobbying for stricter standards on imports. The strategy almost worked last year when industry-proposed language was included in a massive farm bill passed out of the House Agriculture Committee.

olive oil to ensure that it was labeled correctly. That testing, intended to prevent labeling lower-grade olive oil as "extra virgin" or fraudulently cutting in other types of oil, would be much more comprehensive than what imported oils are subjected to now. Extra virgin olive oil is considered to be the highest quality. But the language on labeling was stripped from

Malta, a farmer from Northern California, suggested that labels for imported oil should say "extra rancid." "What we're after here is not to cause problems for our friends who would like to market it. It's more just the truth in advertising that's necessary," LaMalta said.

New York Republicans said new testing standards would cost importers millions of dollars. Republican

Sands: Hacking went further than email, websites

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Casino giant Las Vegas Sands Corp. says hacking into their websites and internal systems last week went deeper than the company previously acknowledged. All of the Las Vegas-based

company's sites were down for six days after hackers posted images apparently condemning CEO Sheldon Adelson's views about using nuclear weapons on Iran. Sands said hackers crashed its email system and stole employees' Social Security

numbers. But a video posted online appears to catalog stolen information that goes much further. Sands spokesman Ron Reese said Tuesday the company is reviewing the 11-minute video that appears to show dozens of

administrator passwords, including passwords for slot machine systems and player information at Sands' Bethlehem, Pennsylvania casino. He said the hackers had reached at least some of the company's internal drives. □



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Negotiators begin search for solution to Iran nuclear issue

STEVEN ERLANGER

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VIENNA - The effort to negotiate a comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue began in earnest Tuesday, with Iranian negotiators meeting one on one with officials of the United States and other major world powers. Senior Iranian officials said Tuesday that they were ready for long and complicated negotiations, but that Iran would not accept the dismantling of its nuclear facilities. Abbas Araghchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister and deputy nuclear negotiator, told reporters here that the talks had started well, but that "to us, what has been announced as dismantling Iran's program and facilities is not on the agenda." There was little substantive news to emerge on the first day of the days of talks, which are intended to arrange an agenda and program to try to resolve all the complicated technical, political, financial and military aspects of Iran's confrontation with the U.N. Security Council over its nuclear program before the end of July.

To that end, Araghchi and the lead U.S. negotiator, Wendy R. Sherman, met for 80 minutes, a senior U.S. official said.

Tehran insists that its nuclear enrichment has only peaceful aims. The six powers negotiating with it - the United States, France, Brit-

ain, Russia and China, the five permanent members of the Security Council, plus Germany - want to ensure that Iran's enrichment is so constrained that it cannot "break out" quickly to produce enough fissile material for a bomb, whether made from uranium or plutonium. That negotiating effort is likely to focus on some equation between the amount and quality of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium and the number and sophistication of the centrifuges it possesses. Iran is thought to have 19,000 centrifuges of varying quality, of which only 10,000 are working. While Iran insists that it has the right to keep developing and installing more sophisticated centrifuges and intends to do so, Western officials will be trying in the talks to come up with an agreement on how many centrifuges, and what kind, can be functioning under international inspection, even if many of the older machines are not destroyed. Under an interim six-month accord, which took effect in January and is designed to buy time for the final settlement talks, Iran committed to not installing any new centrifuges and to limiting its enrichment of uranium to 3.5-percent purity, while turning its current stock of 20-percent enriched uranium into fuel bricks or oxide that cannot easily be further enriched. □

Ukraine: Riot police move in on protest camps

MARIA DANILOVA

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Amid cries of "Glory to Ukraine!" and with flaming tires lighting up the night sky, thousands of riot police armed with stun grenades and water cannons attacked the sprawling protest camp in the center of Kiev on Tuesday, following a day of street battles that left 18 people dead and hundreds injured.

The violence was the deadliest in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Ukraine's capital in a struggle over the nation's identity.

With the boom of exploding stun grenades and fireworks nearly drowning out his words at times, opposition leader Vitali Klitschko urged the 20,000 protesters to defend the camp on Independence Square that has been the heart of the protests.

"We will not go anywhere from here," Klitschko told the crowd, speaking from a stage in the square as tents and tires burned around him, releasing huge plumes of smoke. "This is an island of freedom and we will defend it," he said.

Many heeded his call.

"This looks like a war against one's own people," said Dmytro Shulko, 35, who was heading toward the camp armed with a fire bomb. "But we

will defend ourselves."

As police dismantled some of the barricades on the perimeter of the square and tried to push away the protesters, they fought back with rocks, bats and fire bombs. Against the backdrop of a soaring monument to Ukraine's independence, protesters fed the burning

ing a critical turning point. As the tents and also some tires went up in flames, defiant protesters shouted "Glory to Ukraine!" and sang the Ukrainian national anthem.

Shortly before midnight, Klitschko headed to President Viktor Yanukovych's office to try to resolve the crisis, his spokeswoman



Anti-government protesters look on during clashes with riot police outside Ukraine's parliament in Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014. Some thousands of angry anti-government protesters clashed with police in a new eruption of violence Tuesday. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

flames with tires, creating walls of fire to prevent police from advancing. A large building the protesters had used as a headquarters caught fire and many struggled to get out.

Speaking over loudspeakers, police urged women and children to leave the square because an "anti-terrorist" operation was underway.

The protesters appeared to sense that Ukraine's political standoff was reach-

Earlier in the day, protesters attacked police lines and set fires outside parliament, accusing Yanukovych of once again ignoring their demands and dragging his feet on a constitutional reform to limit presidential powers.

Tensions had soared after Russia said Monday that it was ready to resume providing the loans that Yanukovych's government needs to keep Ukraine's ailing economy afloat. □

Libyan militia to lawmakers: Resign or risk arrest

ESAM MOHAMED

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Two Libyan militias called Tuesday for legislators to step down or be detained, an ultimatum that escalates a political standoff in the North African nation. The head of Parliament refused and called it an attempted coup.

Parliament's term expired on Feb. 7, but lawmakers voted to extend it with plans to hold new elections in the spring. Since then, hundreds of protesters have held daily demonstrations demanding the legislative body be dissolved.

Rival militias, which wield the real power in Libya, have lined up behind competing political factions in what has become a power struggle between Western-backed Prime Minister Zidan and Islamist factions in parliament that are trying to remove him.

Tuesday's ultimatum raised fears the situation could devolve into armed confrontation.

It came a day after Libyans marked the third anni-



In this photo, Libyan's Prime Minister Ali Zidan speaks to the media during a press conference in Rabat, Morocco. Rival militias have lined up behind competing political factions in what has become a power struggle between Western-backed Prime Minister Zidan and Islamist factions in parliament that are trying to remove him.

(AP Photo/Abdeljalil Bounhar)

versary of the start of their revolution that toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi but left the country with no strong central government or military. Successive governments have relied on former rebels who fought Gadhafi to fill the security vacuum, but the fighters formed armed

groups that have gradually turned the country into fiefdoms independent from government authority. The al-Qaaqaa and al-Sawaqa militias called on the parliament "to hand over power" by 9 p.m. (1900 GMT), saying lawmakers who refuse to do so will be considered "usurpers" and

will be detained. Several militiamen appeared on TV, with one reading out the joint statement.

The commander denounced Islamists saying they are an "epidemic disease for which we will be the cure" and vowed, "in front of God and the people that we are not and we will not be seekers of power ... but protectors of the nation until it stands on its feet to build its military and security institutions."

The Libya International Network later broadcast live exercises of men in uniform with a timer counting down the five-hour period given in the ultimatum. Movement of those forces was likely to provoke rival militias in the city of Misrata into action as they back the Islamist factions in parliament. However, the five-hour ultimatum expired without major forces' deployment to the convention center where the parliament convenes. Tripoli-based militias were on alert with militiamen gathered inside their camps waiting for commanders' orders.

Nouri Abu Sahmein, the head of parliament, denounced the warning in a statement televised from inside the building housing the legislative body.

"The General National Congress ... rejects all these attempts and considers them a coup against the legitimate institutions and the choices of the Libyan people," he said, adding that he has received promises of protection from the military and other militias.

"We will not permit internal fighting among the Libyans." The National Forces Alliance — which is among the largest blocs in parliament and backs Zidan — distanced itself from the militias in a statement on its official Facebook page, insisting it has "no armed wings" and saying efforts to defuse the situation "requires contacting the group that delivered the statement."

The United Nations urged rival factions to avert violence and to hold a meeting to reach an agreement to spare Libya "a grave crisis that threatens its security and stability." □

Influential Iraqi cleric rebukes government

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Just days after announcing he was retiring from politics, a hard-line Shiite cleric who has traditionally played the role of kingmaker delivered a scathing rebuke of the Iraqi government and even politicians in his own movement Tuesday, suggesting he's not giving up his influence as national elections draw near. Muqtada al-Sadr's statement came as the country is mired in a resurgence of violence with Sunni militants battling the Shiite-led government for control of volatile areas west of Baghdad and an uptick in deadly bombings mainly targeting security officials and Shiite areas. Several explosive-laden cars blew up Tuesday in Baghdad and cities to the south, killing at least 33 people and wounding dozens.

In a televised speech from his home in the holy Shiite city of Najaf, al-Sadr sharply criticized the Iraqi government for failing to achieve security, or improve public services or the economy.

"Politics has become a gateway for injustice, recklessness and abuses by a dictator and tyrant who controls the funds only to steal them, bombs the cities, creates divisions among sects, buys loyalty and breaks the hearts so that all will vote for him to stay in power," al-Sadr said, reading from a written statement. "Iraq is being governed by blood-thirsty wolves and people panting after money while leaving the people engulfed with suffering and fear."

But he called on Iraqis to vote in parliamentary elections scheduled for April 30 and to choose honest candidates. Al-Sadr also slammed politicians linked

to his own movement, accusing them of "collecting money, shedding blood and violating people's dignity under our name, shrugging off decisions and religious rulings," by exploiting his family's name.

Al-Sadr's statement that he was retiring from politics on Saturday surprised many Iraqis as it came just over two months before national parliamentary elections are due to be held. Sadrists hold 40 out of 325 seats in the legislature, making them the largest single Shiite bloc, and hold six Cabinet seats.

The mercurial cleric, whose followers were blamed for some of the worst sectarian violence and attacks against U.S. forces during the war, has made such announcements before and observers were divided over whether he was sincere this time or posturing for support. □

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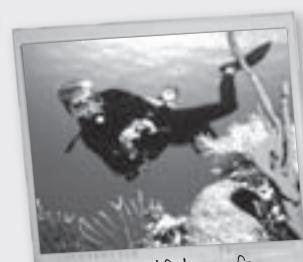
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Former US congressman arrested in Zimbabwe

GILLIAN GOTORA

RAY FAURE

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

Former U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds, who lost his seat in Congress almost two decades ago after being convicted of statutory rape, has been arrested in Zimbabwe on suspicion of possessing pornography and an immigration offence.

Reynolds is being held in custody and is expected to appear in court soon, immigration official Ario Mabika told The Associated Press. Officials would not say where he was being held but ordinarily such detainees would be held at Harare Central Charge Office, a dingy concrete complex downtown where people are held a dozen to a cell and where a hole in the center serves as a toilet.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Karen Kelley refused to comment on the case, saying it was a matter involving a private citizen and that the embassy did not have a privacy waiver to divulge information.

Reynolds, 62, was arrested Monday by police detectives and immigration officials at a Harare hotel, according to the state-controlled newspaper, The Herald. He allegedly brought several Zimbabwean models and other women to his hotel room where he took photographs and videos, the newspaper reported. As Reynolds was being taken to a government vehicle he demanded that officials give him his mobile phone and laptop computer, according to The Herald, whose reporter arrived at the hotel as the arrest was taking place. Reynolds com-

plained that he was not expecting such treatment when he had brought investors to the country. He said he had been to Zimbabwe 17 times and had called for U.S. sanctions to be dropped against President Robert Mugabe and his associates. This is the latest of several legal problems for Reynolds, an Illinois Democrat who once was a Rhodes scholar. Reynolds resigned from his congressional seat in 1995 after he was convicted by a jury of having sex with a former campaign worker while she was underage, and then trying to thwart the investigation. While in prison he was also convicted of bank and campaign fraud for concealing debts to obtain bank loans and diverting money intended for voter registration drives into his election campaign. He was in jail until his sentence was commuted by then President Bill Clinton in Jan. 2001.

In Harare, Reynolds has accumulated hotel bills worth \$24,500 which he has not yet paid, The Herald reported.

Reynolds could face up to two years' imprisonment or a hefty fine if found guilty of possessing pornographic material and deportation for breaching Zimbabwean immigration laws. It is illegal in Zimbabwe to possess any material of a sexual nature. Before his arrest, Reynolds had gained prominence in Zimbabwe for being involved in attracting investment for the \$145 million

construction of a Hilton Hotel and office complex in Harare, reported The Herald. Construction is expected to begin in April and be finished in last 2016, said the newspaper, adding that he had toured the construction site with several government ministers and a businessman.

At one time Reynolds was considered a rising star in the Democratic party.

A Harvard graduate, Reynolds unseated U.S. Rep. Gus Savage in 1992, two years after a House ethics committee determined that during an official trip to Africa Savage had made improper sexual advances to a female Peace Corps volunteer. After Clinton commuted Reynolds' sentence for bank fraud he served his remaining time in a halfway house. □



In this photo is Former US Congressman Mel Reynolds. A Zimbabwean immigration official said Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014 that Reynolds had been arrested Monday for allegedly possessing pornographic material and violating immigration laws.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

Clinton Foundation funds recycling plant in Haiti

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

The Clinton Foundation has awarded a \$250,000 grant to a Haitian recycling plant that seeks to clean up the country's dirty capital city.

Former President Bill Clinton, who heads the private foundation, made the announcement Tuesday before the end of a two-day trip to the Caribbean nation, where he used to serve as a United Nations special envoy. His foundation focuses on bringing in-

vestors to Haiti.

The grant goes to Sustainable Recycling Solutions, a business founded in 2012 by a team of Haitian business leaders and foreign aid workers that pays hundreds of Haitians to collect recyclable materials from trash heaps and landfills. The scraps are then sorted by type and turned into new consumer products such as clothes, lumber, furniture and toys. The project is supposed to help clean up Port-au-Prince, a squalid city of 3 million people, while un-

clogging the many canals that are filled with discarded plastic bottles and other bits of trash.

"This is a big deal," Clinton told reporters.

"It will clean up Port-au-Prince. It's good for the environment. It will stop the clogging of a lot of places in the city."

Clinton also visited apparel manufacturer Industrial Revolution II SA, which began production in October. The company plans to funnel half its profits into a health care and education program for its 100 employ-

ees who sew T-shirts, yoga pants and other clothing for customers like Whole Foods Market Inc.

Workers earn at least 300 gourdes a day, or \$6.81, which is more than Haiti's minimum wage of 200 gourdes a day. They can earn more based on their level of productivity.

Workers in Haiti's garment sector have protested in recent months demanding an increase in the minimum wage to 500 gourdes because they believe current wages are insufficient to live on. □

4 dead as Thai police clash with protesters

T. DOKSONE

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Gunbattles broke out Tuesday as hundreds of riot police made their strongest attempt to clear anti-government protest sites around Thailand's capital, leaving at least four people dead and 64 others injured.

Multiple gunshots were heard near the prime minister's offices, where riot police wearing helmets and bulletproof vests had started to remove protesters and dismantle a makeshift stage. Witnesses said a grenade was thrown at the police and shots were then fired by both sides. The police withdrew after a series of clashes.

In another blow for Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the state anti-corruption agency accused her on Tuesday of improperly handling an expensive rice subsidy scheme, putting her in jeopardy of being impeached.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission said Yingluck's government proceeded with the scheme despite advice from experts that it was potentially wasteful and prone to corruption. The government has been months late in making payments to farmers for the rice they pledged to sell at above-market prices.

The commission said Yingluck has been called to formally hear the charges on Feb. 27. If it decides to

submit the case to the Senate for possible impeachment, Yingluck will immediately be suspended from performing her official duties pending a Senate trial. Yingluck's elected government has been attempting to avoid violence to keep the powerful military from stepping in. Thailand has

medical services said three civilians and a police officer died and 64 others were injured in Tuesday's clashes, including journalists covering the protests for a Hong Kong TV station and the Spanish news agency EFE. The violence erupted after police moved into several locations around the

since late last year and occupied key intersections around Bangkok for about a month. Until now, the police had refrained from dispersing them for fear of unleashing violence. But on Monday, the government's special security command center announced it would reclaim



An injured foreign reporter is carried by medic team to an ambulance during a clash between police force and anti-government protesters Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. Clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators in Bangkok left three people dead and 57 others injured Tuesday as riot police attempted to clear out protest camps around the Thai capital.

(AP Photo/Wason Wanichakorn)

been wracked by political unrest since 2006, when Yingluck's brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was ousted by a military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power. Since then, his supporters and opponents have vied for power, sometimes violently. Erawan emergency

city to detain and remove protesters who have been camped out for weeks to press for Yingluck's resignation. They want the formation of an unelected people's council to implement reforms to end corruption and remove the Shinawatra family from politics. They have blocked access to government offices

five protest sites around the city for public use, a move made possible under a state of emergency declared in January. Thousands of police officers, including armed anti-riot squads, were deployed across the city Tuesday in an operation the government called "Peace for Bangkok." □

Cuban baseball player hit in face with bat in brawl

ANNE-MARIE GARCIA

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A bench-clearing brawl in which a ballplayer hit a rival in the face with a bat had disgusted sports fans and pundits bemoaning the state of Cuba's national sport on Tuesday.

The melee between Matanzas and Villa Clara, first and second in the standings respectively, was broadcast live on national television to shocked viewers Monday night.

The trouble came in the seventh inning after Matanzas catcher Eriel Sanchez hit a solo home run off right-hander Freddy Asiel Alvarez, one of Cuba's best pitchers and a member of the national team.

Alvarez beaned the next man up at the plate, Yasiel Santoya, who was benched by manager Victor Mesa as a precaution.

Two batters later Alvarez came back in high-and-tight on Victor Mesa, plunking the coach's son in the upper arm.

Video images show Matanzas' Demis Valdes charging the mound brandishing a wooden bat at Alvarez, who rips off his glove and hurls it him. Valdes takes a vicious right-handed cut, though it's not clear if he misses the ducking pitcher or deals a glancing blow. But Valdes' backswing catches Villa Clara captain and first baseman Ramon Lunar in the face, knocking him to the ground.

"You have to put a stop to that. That can't happen," the TV announcer said, as other players tackled Valdes and wrestled the bat from him.

Both dugouts emptied as coaches and players met in a scrum near the third-base line that resulted in a long delay. Lunar was hospitalized overnight for observation, but not seriously injured. "He has no facial fractures, only lacerations to the lower and upper lips and nose, all with a favorable prognosis," Cuban journalist Yimmi Castillo said on state television. □

Strong earthquake shakes Barbados

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A magnitude-6.5 earthquake struck northeast of Barbados early Tuesday, jolting thousands from their sleep but causing no reported damage or casualties.

It also was felt in the nearby French Caribbean island of Martinique.

Barbados Police Constable Chris Greg told The Associated Press by telephone that the earthquake was felt throughout the island.

"It was strong," he said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the tremor struck at a depth of 17 kilometers (10.5 miles) at 5:27 a.m. (0927 GMT) and was centered some 106 miles (170 kilometers) northeast of Bathsheba, Barbados.

Dennis Connell, a 55-year-old security supervisor at a local country club, said in a phone interview that he was just starting to wake up when the earthquake struck. "I felt like the place was spinning," he said, adding that he didn't realize it was a tremor. "I

thought I was going sick." Connell lives at Barbados' most northern point, and said there was no damage to his home or his neighbors' houses.

Judy Thomas, director of Barbados' Emergency Management Department, said that thousands of people felt the quake but that it didn't last very long. She said she has received no reports of injuries or damage to infrastructure, and that there is no threat of tsunami.

"We're advising people to go about their business as

usual," she said.

In Martinique, officials said no damage or injuries had been reported either. However, Valerie Clouard, director of the island's Volcanic and Seismic Observatory, warned of possible aftershocks in the next several hours.

The eastern Caribbean was last struck by a powerful earthquake in 2007, when a magnitude-7.4 quake centered just northwest of Martinique's coastline severely damaged some buildings on the island. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Joyous Valentine's Day Celebration at the Casino at the Radisson!



PALM BEACH - A total of twenty couples participated in the much-anticipated Lovers Slot Tournament, with cash prizes of \$500, and free play consolation awards.

The casino marketing team orchestrated a fun filled evening with Chantal Cha Young, Caroly Croes and Niricha Kelly in charge of the festivities. Intern Gabi Garcia conceived the idea of a special Valentine's photo booth, which was executed to perfection by the marketing team, and a professional photographer. Pictured here best dressed couple, Carmen and Ricardo Geerman, most lovable couple, Carla and Freddy Croes, most enthusiastic couple, Maria Ellena and Jose Ridderstap and most loyal couple Monica and Thomas Kock receiving their awards.

The team also raffled beautiful gifts such as breakfast for two at Laguna Restaurant, and a romantic sunset sail for two. The casino's popular Freeze out Poker Tournament raffled off a plentiful gift basket and a



romantic dinner for two at the award-winning Sunset Grille.

Check out the event with a Royal Kir and chocolate covered strawberries re-

ception, on the casino's Facebook, as all images have been uploaded. The most liked picture winner will receive a Larimar Spa treatment for two. □



Marriott's Director of HR Barbara Bronswinkel embarks a new venture



PALM BEACH - The Aruba Marriott congratulates Complex Director of Human Resources Barbara Bronswinkel with her next career venture.

Barbara joined the Marriott family in 2004 as Human Resources Manager focusing on Associate Relations. In 2007 she was promoted to Director of Personal Services followed by a promo-

tion in 2008, when she was promoted to Complex Director of Human Resources overseeing all Human Resources activities for 1200 Marriott associates. She graduated her Master's degree in the US in 2001 and moved to Europe for a year before returning to start her working career on Aruba at the Hyatt was as Training and Employee Re-

lations Manager. "As Marriott continues to grow we strive to grow our local talent and Barbara is one of those talents that we can all be very proud of," said General Manager Tom Calame. During the last few years, she achieved many ac-

complishments to benefit the Marriott associates. From amazing Associate Engagement results, revamping the Associate Relations Committee, the consolidation of various departments to streamlining payroll processes, achieving a 5-day work-

week for most hourly associates and maintaining the great reputation of Marriott as the best employer in the community. The Aruba Marriott wishes Barbara and her family the best of luck, as she embarks on her new journey. □

Triple birthday celebration at Aquarius Restaurant!



they arrived! While some guests of Aquarius Restaurant choose dining from an extensive fixed menu, the group of birthday boys and girls went for the buffet menu, featuring delicious salads and sides, fantastic arrangements of cold seafood salads, chilled shrimp cocktail and sushi, hot beef and chicken entrée choices, and most impressively, the endless à la minute lobster tails, crab legs, scallops, shrimps and fish selections,

straight from the grill to the plate, prepared in an open-kitchen format for guests to request exactly what they wish to enjoy! Needless to say, the service was nothing short of impeccable, with superior professional attention to the groups' needs and a healthy dose of local warmth and comfort.

Every Aquarius in the group agreed they had their best birthday dinner ever at Aquarius Restaurant! □

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ORANJESTAD - When the family of Lauren, Benjamin and Maria del Pilar realized they were all Aquarius's according to the zodiac, they figured the perfect place to celebrate their February birthdays was at Aquarius Restaurant, at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Everyone in the group was new to Aquarius Restaurant, and they were thrilled with the ambiance and concept from the moment

Loyal Visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently, ATA representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to present many loyal visitors to Aruba with distinctive certificates at the Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-19 years consecutive and 20+ years consecutive. Honored as Goodwill Ambassadors: Henry and Clara King of New York, and Steven and Catina Keares of Pennsylvania. Honored as Distinguished Visitors: Dawn Mascoll of New York, Stefano and Chrissoula Stergiadis of Ontario, Bruce and Vikki Rome of Maryland, Daniel and Barbara Drumm of Pennsylvania, Patricia and Redmond Sheets of Massachusetts, Karen and Jeff Sonderman of New Jersey, Terry and Michael Masi of New Jersey, Barry and Roslyn Graham of Arizona, and Debra Silmon from New York. All the honorees love coming back to Aruba for the Beautiful Weather and Hospitality of the Aruban People. □



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PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

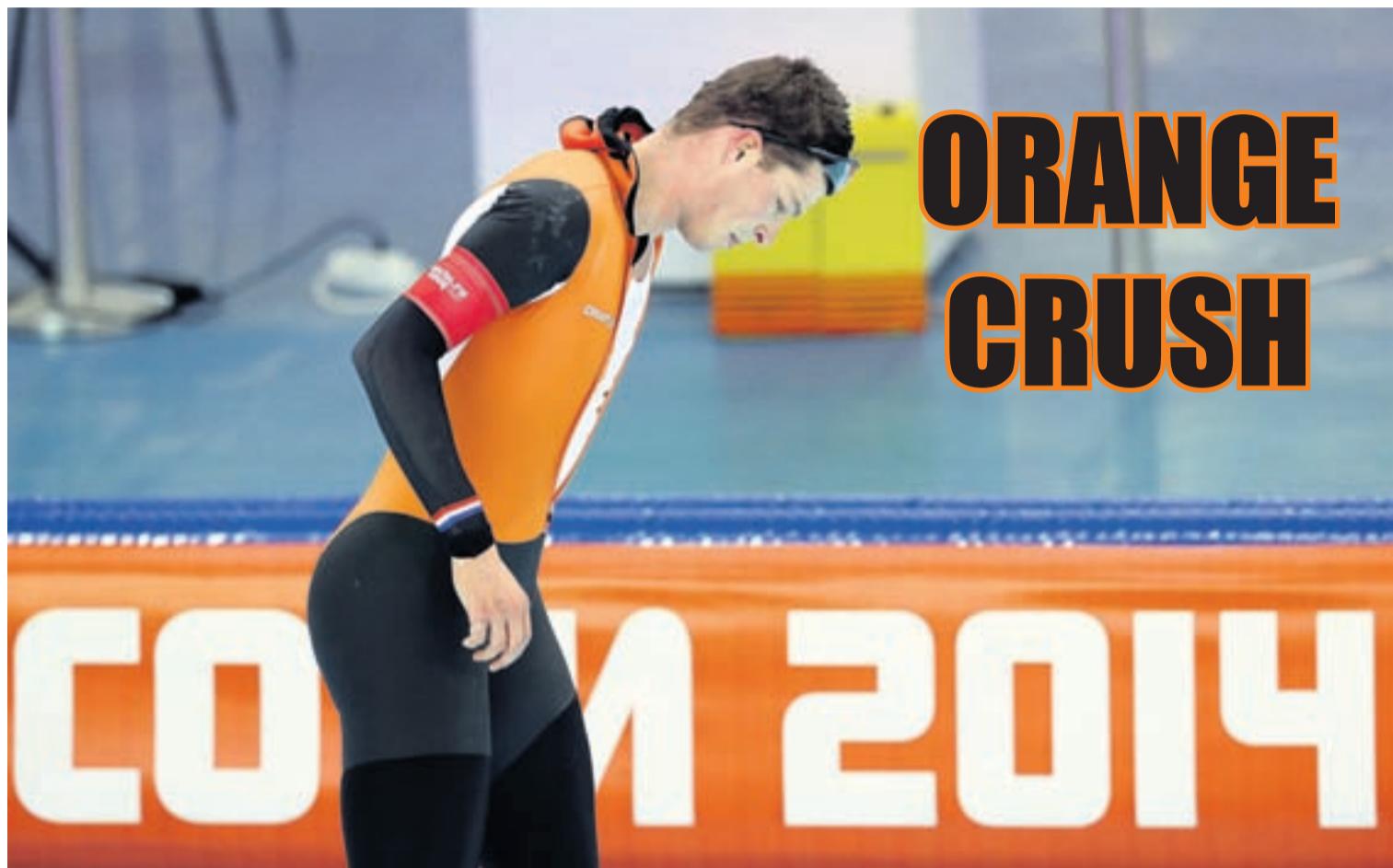
SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Jorrit Bergsma wouldn't go along with the storyline. This was supposed to be about Sven Kramer's redemption, the place where the world's greatest distance skater finally made up for his incredible blunder four years ago.

Instead, Kramer was dealt another crushing disappointment.

With a stunner of a finishing kick, Bergsma upset his favored countryman to win speedskating Olympic gold in the 10,000 meters Tuesday with the fastest time ever at sea level.

"I understand that people really wanted to see Sven win here," Bergsma said. "But I skate for myself. I came here to win gold. I wasn't going to give away the gold for Sven's story."

Continued on Page 20



Silver medallist Sven Kramer of the Netherlands reflects after missing gold in the men's 10,000-meter speedskating race at the Adler Arena Skating Center during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

Associated Press



Serena Williams of the U.S. returns the ball to Ekaterina Makarova of Russia during the second round of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

Associated Press

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-seeded Serena Williams faced some early struggles before defeating Russia's Ekaterina Makarova 7-6 (8), 6-0 in the second round of the Dubai Championships on Tuesday.

Williams, playing in Dubai courtesy of a wild card, has been sidelined with a back injury since losing to Ana Ivanovic in the fourth round of the Australian Open last month. It took Williams the first set to adjust to the left-handed Makarova's ability to jam many of her shots into

Serena Williams struggles but wins in Dubai

the top-ranked American's body.

"I felt a little rusty, but it was OK," Williams said. "Body is fine. I just had to get my feet moving, but it was OK." The 24th-ranked Makarova broke Williams' serve in the first game of the match and was serving for the set at 5-4. That's when the Russian played an error-riddled game to allow Williams to even the score to 5-5.

Williams had one set point on Makarova's serve in the 12th game, but smacked a backhand return over the baseline. In the tiebreaker, Makarova had two set points at 6-4 and 6-5, but couldn't take

advantage of the opportunities.

Williams took the first set on her third set point in the tie-breaker when Makarova shipped a forehand long. "I was really telling myself to stay positive, because I was making a lot of errors that I normally don't make, and my serve just wasn't popping the way it normally is," Williams said. "It definitely got better in the second set."

In the second set, the real Serena Williams showed up and raced to a 5-0 lead. However, she had trouble serving out the final game of the match — facing three break points before

winning on her second match point when Makarova made a forehand error. "She never gives up, and in that last game she started playing even better," Williams said. "I knew that I wanted to close it out there, because she'd probably feel comfortable with holding serve and it would have been a longer match."

Williams now plays Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic or fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia in the quarter-finals.

Earlier, Ivanovic sent sixth-seeded Angelique Kerber packing 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Continued on Page 21

The wacky world of Match Play returns

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP)

— Rory McIlroy makes his American debut this week in the Match Play Championship. The goal is to make sure it's not a short week.

McIlroy appears to be close to regaining the form that made him No. 1 in the world. He started the season on the European Tour and had chances to win in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. So his expectations would seem to be high.

Just not here.

"What is a good week?" said McIlroy, the No. 4 seed in a 64-man field at Dove Mountain. "You could shoot 67 tomorrow and be going home. It's hard to know. It's hard to even put a sort of number on it. 'OK, if I get to the quarterfinals, it's a good week.' You just have to take it one match at a time."

The Accenture Match Play Championship, which starts Wednesday in the high desert north of Tucson, is the most unpredictable event in golf and probably the reason it's played so infrequently. It can be maddening for the top 64 players available from the world ranking in 18-hole matches.

Tiger Woods is the only No. 1 seed to win, and he's not at Dove Mountain this year. Woods, Masters champion Adam Scott and British Open champion Phil Mickelson are skipping this World Golf Championship, leaving Henrik Stenson as the No. 1 seed. He opens with Kiradech Aphibarnrat of Thailand, and there's no telling what will happen.

A year ago, Luke Donald was the only player among the top four seeds who survived the first round. Donald lost in the second round.

That's one reason Scott chose not to play.

"My record speaks for itself in Arizona," Scott said at the start of the year. He only made it to the second round twice since it moved to Dove Mountain in 2007. Mickelson's two youngest children have spring break this week (Mickelson has

skipped three of the previous four years, anyway), while Woods was planning on being at Sochi for the Olympics until girlfriend Lindsey Vonn re-injured her knee. He decided to take this week off, anyway.

Not that the absence of those top players will give anyone else an advantage.

Asked about his chance, McIlroy only knew that he played Boo Weekley in the opening round. And that he and Weekley don't have a lot in common.

"I've never been hunting before in my life," McIlroy said.

Matt Kuchar is the defending champion, and he's still trying to get a copy of the draw just to marvel at how he did it. Kuchar already has the bracket from when he won the 1997 U.S. Amateur.

Kuchar was the No. 21 seed last year. So was Hunter Mahan when he won the year before. Woods is the only player from among the top eight seeds to have won the Match Play Championship over the past 10 years. Among the most compelling matches in the first round are Ian Poulter and Rickie Fowler, with similar games and style. At least they won't have to bring ski jackets — the opening round last year was suspended by snow, and the weather is expected to be warm and sunny.

And then there's Graeme McDowell and Gary Woodland, who are no strangers. They live at Lake Nona in Florida. They even flew out on the same plane together.

"We'll have one Lake Nona player through to the second round — we know that much," said Stenson, who also was on the plane. "You're probably going to bump into one of your good friends at some stage when you're playing a tournament like this, if you're doing well. So it doesn't really matter. It's all to how you play. It's good fun no matter what. You just go out there and try to do your best. If it's your week, it's your week." □



Martin Kaymer watches his tee shot on the 17th hole during a practice round at the Match Play Championship golf tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014 in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

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Olympic day of politics and power on the slopes

FRED LIEF

AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — The politics got a little hotter. The slopes got a lot slushier. On a day when the mountain courses seemed better suited for the crawl or butterfly but posed no obstacle to Tina Maze, the Sochi Olympics took a more overt political turn.

Two members of the punk group Pussy Riot — Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina — were among nine people detained Tuesday while walking in downtown Sochi. All were later released and no charges were filed.

The two group members burst from the police station wearing trademark ski masks — one pink, one blue. Police said they were questioned about a theft at the hotel where they were staying.

Pussy Riot has become an international flashpoint for those who contend Vladimir Putin's government has exceeded its authority in dealing with an array of issues, notably human and gay rights.

"We are constantly surrounded by people ... who are shadowing us, following our every move and looking for any excuse to detain us," Tolokonnikova



David Wise of the United States gets air during the men's ski halfpipe final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

said after her release.

At the Olympic Park, the Russian hockey team looked plenty vulnerable in its opening hockey game in the elimination round, defeating Norway 4-0 in a game that — despite the scoreline — was anything but a rout.

No questions, however, about the Dutch speedskaters. Jorrit Bergsma won the men's 10,000 meters to

lead another sweep of the medals for the Netherlands. Seven gold medals were on offer on Day 12 and among the winners were Emil Hegle Svendsen of Norway in biathlon, Pierre Vaultier of France in snowboardcross, South Korea in short track relay and Joergen Graabak of Norway in Nordic combined.

SKIING: Neither rain nor

snow could keep Maze from her appointed rounds. The Slovenian skier captured her second gold medal of these games by winning the giant slalom. Maze was in full command, leading all the way and finishing 0.07 seconds ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria. Defending champion Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany was the bronze medalist and teen sensa-

tion Mikaela Shiffrin of the U.S. was fifth in her Olympic debut. Last week, Maze tied for the gold medal in the downhill in glorious sunshine. On Tuesday, the sun seemed lost in the hills. Maze marked the moment in the spirit of Michael Phelps, simulating a breaststroke in the icy slop. "We are all wet, so I said, 'Why not?'" Maze said. "It's been a great day for me."

HOCKEY: Russia is playing under immense pressure in Sochi. It did not look strong in the preliminary round, and that was the case against Norway, which hasn't won an Olympic hockey game since its home Lillehammer Games in 1994. The game was scoreless after one period and 2-0 after two. Russia got two goals from Alexander Radulov and advanced to the quarterfinals against Finland on Wednesday. Latvia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia also advanced to the quarterfinals.

SPEEDSKATING: The podium has become a second home for the Dutch, with the walls painted orange. Bergsma set an Olympic record with his time of 12 minutes, 44.45 seconds.

Bergsma

Continued from Page 18

Kramer gave away a sure gold at the 2010 Vancouver Games with a botched lane change. This time, he simply got beat by — almost inevitably at the Sochi Games — a fellow Dutchman.

Bergsma's time of 12 minutes, 44.45 seconds was less than 3 seconds off Kramer's world record, set at high altitude in 2007, and shattered the Olympic record of 12:58.55 by South Korea's Lee Seung-hoon four years ago.

Kramer settled for silver in 12:49.02. The bronze went to 37-year-old Bob de Jong, the oldest speedskating medalist in 86 years. "This is really bitter, be-

cause I never took this into account," Kramer said. "Turns out, I simply was not good enough."

While the order of finish didn't go as expected, the guys on the podium were no surprise at all.

It was another orange sweep, the fourth 1-2-3 finish for the Netherlands at Adler Arena, its speedskating medal haul climbing to 19 out of a possible 27.

Bergsma's last five laps were all under 30 seconds, a pace Kramer simply couldn't match skating in the final pair with Lee.

"I was doing 29-second laps and was able to hold on to those late in the race," Bergsma said.

Kramer had already captured his second straight 5,000 gold in Sochi, but he really wanted to make up for the 10,000 victory



Athletes from the Netherlands, from left to right, silver medallist Sven Kramer, gold medallist Jorrit Bergsma, and bronze medallist Bob de Jong stand on the podium during the flower ceremony for the men's 10,000-meter speedskating race at the Adler Arena Skating Center during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

Associated Press

that got away in Vancouver. During a routine crossover on the backstretch, Kramer's coach, Gerard Kemkers, absent-mindedly directed him to the wrong lane. The skater dutifully followed the instructions, leading to a disqualification. Lee took the gold,

even though his time was 4 seconds slower than Kramer's.

"Four years ago was tougher than this. Here I was beaten by someone better," Kramer said. "I have to accept this, however tough it is."

Smooth and relaxed in

the early laps, Kramer was grimacing in a desperate search for more speed the closer he got to the end. His lap times climbed steadily higher. When the bell rang for the final trip around the oval, Bergsma already was celebrating in the infield.

"He kept matching me for a long time," Bergsma said. "Then I realized he couldn't hold on to those laps."

On his cool-down lap, Kramer stopped to shake hands with his countryman. But he could barely muster a smile on the medal podium and didn't hang around long for the victory parade, leaving the arena to Bergsma and De Jong. In recent days, Kramer said he's been bothered by problems with his thigh and back. He needed to be at his absolute best to beat Bergsma.



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LeBron: 'At this point, I can't' see leaving Miami

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James cannot currently envision a scenario where he leaves the Miami Heat this summer, though he still plans to assess his needs and his future at the end of the season.

James made the comments in a wide-ranging interview with NBA TV. The Heat star can choose to become a free agent after this season by exercising an option in the contract he signed when he arrived in Miami during the summer of 2010.

Asked if he can picture himself being anywhere else, James did not seem to hesitate before answering.

"At this point, I can't," James said. "We don't know what can happen from now to July, so what I've been able to do this whole season to this point is just worry about what's



East Team's LeBron James, of the Miami Heat (6) heads to the hoop during the NBA All Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in New Orleans.

Associated Press.

at hand and that's winning another championship. And hopefully at the end of this year I can put myself in a position where I can hold that Larry O'Brien Trophy up once again and then I will assess what I have to do with my future after that."

James also discussed his sources of motivation, ways he thinks his game can still improve, how he handles expectations, the struggles of his first season in Miami, and his background growing up in Akron, Ohio.

Some of his most telling comments revolved around the fallout that came after the Heat lost to Dallas in the 2011 NBA Finals. James has often told the story about how he spent the next two weeks in near isolation, completely overcome by the disappointment of losing the title series. □

Dubai

Continued from Page 18

The former top-ranked Ivanovic had three match points on Kerber's serve in the 12th game but couldn't close it out against the German who reached last week's Doha final.

Ivanovic even faced a battle in the tiebreaker. The Serbian led 5-1, but Kerber battled back to where she even had a match point at 6-5.

"The first two sets a little bit too many errors on my side and a little bit from her side," Ivanovic said. "She's such a tough competitor and retrieves lots of balls."

"I'm just so happy to be through."

Seventh-seeded Simona Halep, who won last

week's Qatar Open in Doha, retired with a right Achilles injury while trailing Alize Cornet of France 6-1, 1-1, in the first match of the day.

Halep complained of an inflamed Achilles during her run to the Doha title.

"I wanted to try because I like to try to fight for my chance, but here I couldn't," Halep said. "After one set I realized that it is dangerous to continue."

Eighth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki had to overcome a one-set deficit to outmaneuver Sabine Lisicki of Germany 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 and move into the second round.

"I knew she was going to come out hot and just go for her shots, and I felt like I was just a step behind," said Wozniacki, who sports an 8-carat diamond en-



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns the ball to Sabine Lisicki of Germany during the second round of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

Associated Press

agement ring from fiance, golfer Rory McIlroy everywhere she goes except on court.

"It was nice to win this one, and, you know, onwards and upwards, as they say." Wozniacki will face Ger-

man qualifier Annika Beck in the second round. Beck defeated Samantha Stosur of Australia 1-6, 6-1, 6-4. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

As we approach the clinic, a gentleman is quietly waiting for his first Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) consultation. Several other people seem restless and anxious, talking loudly, almost shouting although they have only been sitting for a short time. After a long unusual season of rain, most of us are grateful to sit in the sunshine and invite the trade winds back.

However, although it is not yet the time of "high winds" as spring nears, we have bursts of the heavy breezes, which are the trade mark of our Island. The tropical sun can be unbearable with no wind, but for some, heavy wind becomes just as unbearable. In the Peoples Republic of China, we called the destructive effects of high wind, "wind evil."

Most people can withstand the negative consequences of gale force wind, but some, who have been consuming greasy or otherwise unhealthy foods, drinking too much alcohol or working too much the wind may bring a "sickness."

Anger, frustration, resentment and hatred over a long period of time

can also make one susceptible to the negative effects of wind. Today's group brings a mix of symptoms and complaints which has not been relieved by other methods. We will begin now, with anemia, menstrual problems, pale, fungus or easily broken fingernails, then liver problems, headaches, high blood pressure, eye and ear troubles, difficulty sleeping or waking up between 1 and 3 am. We find a whole host of stomach problems, swollen or painful chest or breast, heart palpitations, not being able to swallow in spite of no throat infection. Some "wind" affected people can be spotted from afar. They have a green hue around their mouths. Some as they walk into clinic leave a trail of strong perfume being used to cover up a sour body smell. Some people can barely walk in before they exclaim that they are "going crazy."

The wind will get stronger as spring approaches. With more wind, more people with "affected livers" will arrive. Many will hear me say "Your liver is hot!" "What? Is something wrong with my liver? I just checked and my house/family doctor said that everything was normal on my blood tests"

A "hot" or "Liver Fire" will not show up on any medical test, except as possible liver hepati-

tis. If a medical symptom cannot be measured on a lab test, does it really exist? To some doctors, if all the medical tests come back "negative," then the problem is "in your head." Oriental Medical Doctors (OMD), look at human organs from a different perspective than standard or Western medicine. Western medicine studies only physical aspects of the organs. OMD's are trained to look at the amount of energy an organ uses in relation to the other organs. We use the heart beat of both radial pulses to determine the amount of energy being or not being used by each organ. We "read" or feel the pulse on both hands to evaluate 29 organ functions. Each pulse position tells us about a different organ and their relationships to each other.

For example, if there is no pulse in the Kidney position, we know that the adrenal gland, which sits on top of the kidneys, is working overtime. This can interrupt proper sleep. Without sufficient Kidney Yin, there is no "Yin" energy to send to the Liver. If the liver has no Yin energy, hyperthyroidism or over-active thyroid, hypertension or high blood pressure, and/or eye problems develop because of "Liver Fire." If these deficiencies persist, the "Liver Fire" rises and begins to affect the stomach and heart. Deficient Heart

Yin turns sleep problems into full blown insomnia, sometimes with heart palpitations' and hearing problems.

Unchecked, this becomes "Heart Fire Blazing Upwards" which can be felt in the throat as "something there," mucus or a "lump." Some people have their adenoids or tonsils and even thyroid removed with the feeling continuing. When the "Fire Blazing Upwards" reaches the head, symptoms include; ringing in the ears, dry, watery or twitching eyes, headaches and migraines.

Adrenaline that is being over-produced stimulates the sympathetic nervous system. This makes the heart beat faster, closes ore dilates the blood vessels and relaxes the bronchial tubes. Blood Pressure can rise and emotional problems begin many times leading to prescription tranquilizing medication.

Get The Point! People coming to clinic complaining of unexplained anger, stomach problems, heart problems, a feeling that "something is stuck in m throat", headaches at the temples, dizziness, the list goes on; yet, they are all suffering from liver fire. Natural herbs and acupuncture quickly start feeling better. We are entering the time of year when liver have a tendency to "blaze" upwards produc-

ing all these possible symptoms. Want to feel better? Come in so we can check the function of your liver and make sure you are as healthy as you can be.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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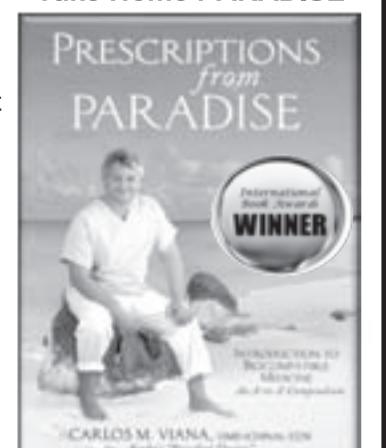
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Review: Mobile app shows where to find friends

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) --

SocialRadar is a new mobile application that could become a cool way to find nearby friends and discover other interesting people living or working in the same neighborhood. Or it could just end up being another creepy example of how digital devices are making it easier for our whereabouts to be tracked by just about anyone, including strangers.

Here's how SocialRadar works: After receiving permission to tap into your existing connections on Facebook and other online networks, the app plots the locations of friends and family members, as well as SocialRadar users you don't know. You can choose how far you want SocialRadar to look, from several hundred feet to around the whole world.

Sometimes, SocialRadar identifies the locations of friends and family based on geographic information posted on a social network, such as a check-in from a San Francisco bar. Those friends and relatives don't have to be SocialRadar users.

More often, SocialRadar simply keeps tabs on other SocialRadar users based on their iPhone's location, as long as their privacy settings allow the surveillance. This means SocialRadar users also will see the loca-

tions of complete strangers who also have installed the app.

It's still too early to conclude whether SocialRadar will emerge as a friendship magnet or a stalker's best friend. So far, the iPhone app has been downloaded by fewer than 100,000 users since its release in late January. Other versions of SocialRadar are in the works, including an app tailored for Google Glass, an Internet-connected headset that perches a thumbnail-sized display screen above the user's right eye. Besides Facebook, SocialRadar also pulls information from Twitter, Foursquare, Instagram, LinkedIn and Google Plus.

SocialRadar is run by Michael Chasen, who founded education software maker Blackboard and sold the company for \$1.6 billion in 2011 to Providence Equity Partners. So far, Chasen has raised nearly \$13 million from venture capitalists and other early investors backing SocialRadar's attempt to make it easier to set up lunch or an impromptu meeting with a friend who just happens to be a few blocks away.

"I think people will be surprised to find out how much serendipity they have been missing in their lives until they use this app," Chasen said.

SocialRadar also provides insights into other SocialRadar users you don't know.



In theory, this is supposed to make it easier to strike up new friendships when you spot people near your office or home who share your tastes or may have attended the same college. By introducing strangers with common interests, SocialRadar eventually hopes to morph into its own social network, so it won't have to rely so heavily on the connections already made in other online services. To its credit, SocialRadar provides easily accessible settings to restrict who can see your whereabouts and peruse your profile. A scrolling dashboard at the top of the home screen makes it easy to toggle from a "public" setting that makes

you visible to anyone on the app to "friends only" or even to "anonymous" or "invisible." SocialRadar's profile settings also enable users to conceal their ages and other personal details. Managing these privacy controls seems particularly important for the minors who are allowed to use SocialRadar. Like Facebook, SocialRadar is available to anyone 13 and older. Like most parents, I worry that many teens won't fully understand the importance of limiting when and where their locations can be tracked.

Mostly out of curiosity about what might happen, I have been allowing my whereabouts to be constantly

seen on SocialRadar. But the app hasn't opened any new doors yet. Perhaps that will change if SocialRadar catches on with more people. For now, though, I am mostly seeing the locations of a lot of strangers who seem to have little in common with me.

Even though I still haven't met any of them, I feel as though I am getting to know some of people. For instance, I have been able to make educated guesses about where some of them live just by checking the app at the same time every night. I also have amused myself by checking out where some of them hang out on Saturday nights.

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Stocks edge higher in quiet, post-holiday trading

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks closed mostly higher Tuesday as traders got back to work after a long holiday weekend.

It was a fairly quiet day for investors, who had relatively little news to react to.

Health care stocks rose more than the rest of the market after pharmaceutical company Actavis said it was buying rival Forest Laboratories for \$25 billion in cash and stock.

Investors liked the deal, which is intended to make the companies more competitive in a rapidly changing industry and allow them to command higher prices from insurance companies. Actavis makes the generic versions of hyperactivity disorder medication Concerta and the cholesterol drug Lipitor, while Forest Labs makes the Alzheimer's treatment Namenda.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 23.99 points,

or 0.2 percent, to 16,130.40. The Dow was dragged lower by Coca-Cola, which fell \$1.46, or 4 percent, to \$37.47.

Coke reported that its income and sales fell in the fourth quarter compared with the same period a year ago. The company said sales volume declined 1 percent in North America, its largest market. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.13 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,840.76. The Nasdaq composite rose 28.76 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,272.78.

Forest Labs and Actavis were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 index. Forest Labs soared \$19.65, or 28 percent, to \$91.04 and Actavis rose \$9.59, or 5 percent, to \$201.47.

Other drug makers also rose sharply. Gilead Sciences rose \$2.60, or 3 percent, to \$83.81 and Eli Lilly rose \$1.05, or 2 percent, to \$55.25.

The Forest Labs-Actavis

deal is the latest in big-name, big-budget deals to be announced so far this year. Last week cable giant Comcast announced a deal to buy Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion and

Japan's Suntory Holdings announced last month it was buying Beam, the maker of Jim Beam and Maker's Mark whiskey, for \$13.9 billion.

Investors should expect

more large deals this year, said Mike Serio, regional chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

"This has been building up for three or four years now," he said. □



Trader Stephen McSherry, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. The U.S. stock market is edging lower in early trading after a modest recovery the day before.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

'Candy Crush Saga' maker King Digital plans IPO

BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The company behind "Candy Crush Saga" is going public, hoping the popularity of its addictive online game will translate to sweet returns for itself and its investors.

King Digital Entertainment PLC, which also makes lesser-known games such as "Bubble Witch Saga" and "Pet Rescue Saga," did not disclose how many shares it expects to offer in the IPO or a projected price range for the stock. In papers filed Tuesday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said it hopes to raise as much as \$500 million in the offering. The amount could change in the coming weeks as the company and the IPO's underwriting banks gauge investor demand.

"Candy Crush" was the most downloaded free app on iPhones and iPads in 2013, beating Facebook, Google Maps and YouTube. The game's success helped King replace Zynga



This screenshot provided by Candy Crush shows "Candy Crush Saga," the maddeningly addictive mobile game that involves matching bright-hued virtual candies in a row to have them disappear, only to be replaced by more. King Digital Entertainment PLC, maker of the popular "Candy Crush Saga" mobile game, is planning to raise up to \$500 million from an initial public offering of its common stock.

(AP Photo/Candy Crush)

Inc. —maker of "FarmVille" and "Mafia Wars"— as the

No. 1 producer of games played on Facebook.

So is King the next Zynga? Zynga, too, once ruled the realm of online games. And in 2011, the company went public riding the popularity of an addictive game, "FarmVille." Founded in 2002, King only decided to go public once "Candy Crush" had achieved the pinnacle of popularity. But several analysts say any comparisons between King and Zynga are unfair — to both companies. "They have been around longer and are much larger," said John Fitzgibbon, the founder of IPOScoop.com. "Why go public? Because they can." King is five years older than San Francisco's Zynga, and thanks largely to in-app purchases people make while playing "Candy Crush," the company generated 2013 revenue of \$1.88 billion, more than 10 times its 2012 revenue of \$164.4 million. Zynga's 2013 revenue, meanwhile, was \$873.3 million, down from \$1.28 billion in 2012. Anoth-

er major difference: King is profitable, while Zynga is not. King had 665 employees at the end of 2013. Zynga, meanwhile, is cutting jobs but still has about 2,100 employees, down from a peak of 3,300 in 2012, at the tail end of the "FarmVille" craze. "They are two different kinds of game companies, with 'Candy' being a bit more mobile centric," said Gartner analyst Brian Blau. They also take different approaches to game development, he added. Zynga analyzes how its games are played to try to make the games better, more addictive and more lucrative once they are already out, while King tests its titles "for a very, very long time" before releasing them to the public, Blau said. "Candy Crush," which involves matching rows of bright-hued virtual candies to make them disappear, is successful by any measure. There were 93 million users playing the game every day in December, according to King's

regulatory filing. If King isn't a household name, "Candy Crush" certainly is. The game's fans can be spotted on subways, waiting in line at the Post Office or in the theater before the start of a movie. "Candy Crush" is free to play, but users spend money on extra items to boost game-play. That's the model for Zynga's Facebook games, too. King said in its filing that the IPO will include shares offered by the company as well as those offered by existing stockholders. The Dublin-based company, which has offices in Sweden, London, San Francisco and elsewhere, plans to list its stock on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "KING." King had filed its original IPO papers last summer under a federal law passed in 2012 that allows companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue in its last fiscal year to keep its IPO documents under seal until the final few weeks before a price is set on a stock offering. □

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Violence Against Women

Actavis to buy Forest Labs in \$25 billion deal



The Commack, N.Y., branch of Forest Laboratories, a Manhattan-based pharmaceutical company, is seen in this photo. Actavis PLC plans to buy Forest Laboratories Inc. in an approximately \$25 billion cash-and-stock combination that will create a drugmaker with a product portfolio that includes drugs like the Alzheimer's disease treatment Namenda.

(AP Photo/Newsday, Jim Peppler)

LINDA A. JOHNSON**TOM MURPHY****AP Business Writers**

Irish drugmaker Actavis PLC plans to buy Forest Laboratories Inc. for about \$25 billion, catapulting little-known Actavis into the world's No. 15 drug company, with an unusual one-stop-shopping model giving it an edge: more face time with doctors. U.S. physicians, increasingly crunched for time, keep reducing how many drugmaker sales reps they see. Forest gives Actavis not just a broader product line, but

also its big U.S. sales force, which now can promote a half-dozen Forest and Actavis products at each doctor visit. That likely will result in more time and more options to present to primary care doctors, compared to rival brand-name drugmakers whose sales reps promote one or two drugs.

"They have just figured out a way to maximize use of time" with doctors, WBB Securities analyst Steve Bro-

zak said Tuesday. "There's no way big Pharma can compete with this."

Actavis, based in Dublin, calls itself a specialty pharmaceutical company, but it sells several hundred generic, brand-name and nonprescription medicines generally prescribed by family doctors, from birth control pills to infection drugs. Its specialty drugs include osteoporosis treatment Actonel, other drugs for women's health, and dermatology and urology medicines. And it's partnering with biotech giant Amgen Inc. to develop five biosimilars — like generic versions of ultra-expensive biologic drugs made in living cells.

Still, Actavis needed a bigger U.S. presence and more brand-name drugs to keep growing.

New York-based Forest brings all that, including branded drugs Namenda for Alzheimer's disease, Saphris for schizophrenia, Linzess for chronic constipation and antidepressant Viibryd.

Actavis said it will pay \$26.04 in cash and a third of an Actavis share for each Forest share. □

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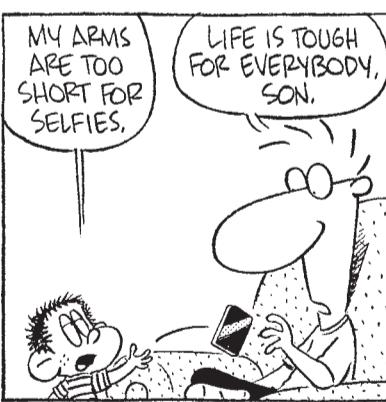
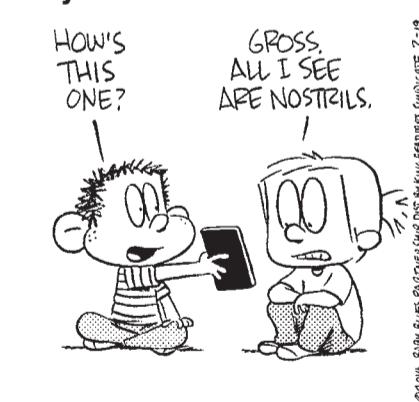
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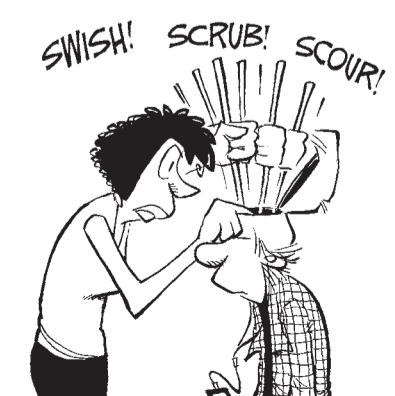
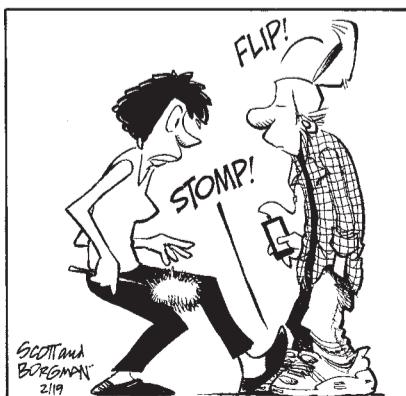
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5	7	9				3	4
8	7	4				5	6
		5				7	
	6	7	1			1	
6							
1	7		2				9
4							2
6	3	5				7	
	3	2				8	

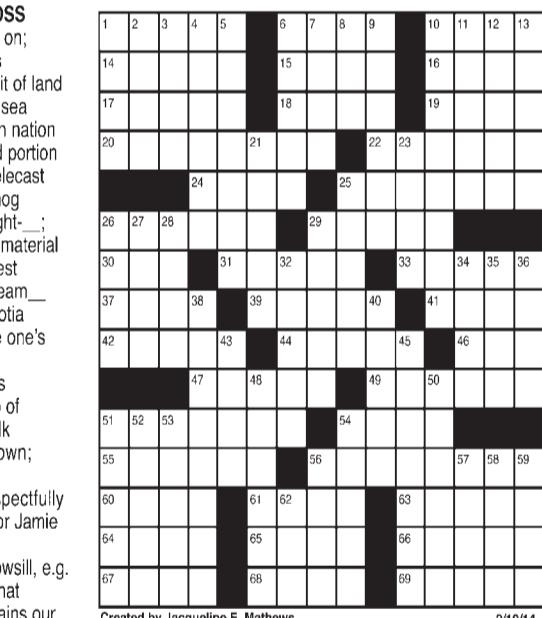
Difficulty Level ★★★

2/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	8	3	6	5	7	1	2	4
7	4	5	1	2	9	6	3	8
2	6	1	3	4	8	7	9	5
1	2	9	8	7	5	4	6	3
5	7	8	4	3	6	9	1	2
4	3	6	2	9	1	8	5	7
3	1	7	9	8	2	5	4	6
8	9	2	5	6	4	3	7	1
6	5	4	7	1	3	2	8	9

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/19/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	B	S	P	R	E	I	N	T	O
I	G	E	T	C	L	E	A	M	O	N
F	E	A	R	R	O	A	R	S	B	U
S	K	E	D	A	D	D	I	N	K	Y
S	P	A	S	M	S	C	A	B	L	E
C	A	N	E	S	C	H	I	L	D	O
O	D	D	S	S	U	E	D	P	A	G
O	R	Y	F	L	E	A	S	L	U	C
P	E	S	K	I	E	S	T	F	I	H
A	T	E								
D	I	S								

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1	One of the three tenses
2	Biblical book
3	Smell
4	Not roundabout
5	Mogadishu's nation
6	"A Doll's House" writer
7	Before long
8	Boy
9	Wiped away
10	Mosque towers
11	Fragrance
12	Was crazy about
13	Silly
21	Delicious
23	Breakfast order
25	Knocks to the ground
63	Albert or Fisher
64	Trick
65	Handsome guy
66	Reigns
67	Brooklyn team
68	On __ own; independent
69	Kernels
36	Weeps
38	Pensioners
40	Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
43	Word of disgust
45	Kindle users
32	Abnormal mass
34	Helps
50	Make gentle
52	Scoundrel
53	Explode
54	Supports
56	Sharpen
57	Not working
58	Fibbed
59	More or __
62	-in; alteration

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Warm West offsets cold East, makes average January

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- For those who shivered through January, this may be hard to believe: Nationwide, the average temperature for the month was about normal because a warm West offset a cool East.

January in the Lower 48 states was the 53rd coldest of 120 years of record-keeping, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration announced Thursday. The average was 30.3 degrees, only one-tenth of a degree below normal for the month.

While Alabama had its fourth coldest January on record, California and Alaska had their third warmest. "The phrase, 'the new normal' definitely applies to our perception of January 2014 weather out east," Weather Underground meteorology director Jeff Masters said in an email. "We've gotten used to a warmer climate." The frequent but not unusual cold winters of 30 years ago now seem "really extreme," he said.

Nationwide, it was the fifth driest January on record. New Mexico had its driest January, Arizona had its second driest and California, its third.

And even though it seemed like it snowed a lot in the East, the snow on the ground in January in the Lower 48 was the 16th smallest in 48 years of record-keeping by the Rutgers University Global Snow Lab. Snow cover was above average in the Northern Plains, Midwest and Northeast but below average in the Rockies and the West.

Nearly every state, from Missouri and Iowa to the East, had a much cooler



This Jan. 7, 2014 file photo shows ice in the Mississippi River flowing past the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. For a chilly and snowbound East, here's a dose of cold reality: The nation's temperature in January was pretty normal because a warm West offset a cool East.

Associated Press

than normal start of the year. Nearly every state from Colorado and Wyoming west had a much warmer than normal January. That's because starting in January and stretching through early February, the jet stream plunged due south in an unusual and persistent pattern that brought bone cold temperatures to the east of the big dip and dry warm weather to the west of the plunge, said Rutgers University climate scientist Jennifer Francis. The jet stream is a river of air that normally runs more west-to-east around the top of the globe and is intricately connected to weather patterns.

The odd jet stream has meant a stormy and wet winter for Great Britain, unusual warmth for Olympics host city Sochi, Scandinavia, Alaska and the rest of the Arctic region, Francis said.

It is not connected to the nor'easter in the South and East this week, she added.

Snowy owls invade U.S. 'south' as cold has effect



In this Jan. 24, 2014 file photo, a snowy owl rests on a ledge of a building in Washington.

Associated Press

MARY ESCH

Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

Reports from tens of thousands of bird-counting volunteers show a southern invasion of Arctic-dwelling snowy owls has spread to 25 U.S. states, and frigid cold is causing unusual movements of waterfowl. Results are still coming in from the four-day annual Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society

and Bird Studies Canada. Sponsors say the event, which ended Monday, drew participants from a record 127 countries, surpassing last year's 110. Most were from the U.S. and Canada.

Preliminary results show more than 2,500 snowy owls being reported in 25 states and seven Canadian provinces. The big white owls are in the midst of a sudden invasion of a region in large numbers, which scientists attribute to

But Francis, Masters and other meteorologists said the jet stream is finally becoming unstuck. The National Weather Service is predicting that the next couple weeks will bring warmer than normal temperatures for the East and Midwest. As he was shoveling snow in suburban Washington Thursday, NOAA climate prediction center deputy director Mike Halpert said he told neighbors he had good news and bad news.

The bad news: Maybe another inch or two of snow was coming overnight. The good: Temperatures next week would be in the 50s and maybe, just maybe, an end to the big storms for the season. □

a population boom in the birds and a scarcity of their preferred food, lemmings, in their normal range on the Arctic tundra.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is designed to engage the public in nature study as well as help scientific research.

"When tens of thousands of participants around the world share what they're seeing during the Great Backyard Bird Count, they help scientists achieve something that would otherwise be impossible — documenting where vast numbers of birds are, all across the world, in a very short period of time," said Janis Dickinson, director of citizen science at the Cornell Lab in Ithaca.

The annual backyard count, now in its 17th year, is open to anyone. Participants observe and record birds in their backyard or any other location for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and submit the observations online.

Anyone can view the results and explore trends in bird distribution and numbers online at www.ebird.org. □

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Devo guitarist Bob Casale dies at age 61

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Casale, the guitarist for Devo, best known for the 1980 hit "Whip It," died of heart failure, his brother and band member Gerald Casale said Tuesday. He was 61. Devo founding member Casale said in a statement that his younger brother's death on Monday was "sudden" and "a total shock." No further details

on Bob Casale's death were provided. The Ohio-based Devo released its Brian Eno-produced debut, "Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!," in 1978. The new wave band reached platinum status with 1980's "Freedom of Choice," which featured "Whip It." Casale called his brother "a solid performer and talented audio engineer" in his statement. Last year, Devo lost its drummer, Alan Myers, after a battle with brain cancer. □

Montgomery, Jones voted into Jazz Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Betty Carter, guitarist Wes Montgomery, drummer Elvin Jones and bandleader Fletcher Henderson have been voted into Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame. JALC announced the 2014 inductees Monday after tallying votes by jazz fans worldwide from a list of 10 nominees selected by a committee of musicians and scholars.

Montgomery influenced countless modern jazz guitarists, including George Benson and Pat Metheny. Jones was



This June 5, 2010 file photo shows Bob Casale performing live at The 2010 KROQ Weenie Roast in Irvine, Calif.

Associated Press

the driving force propelling saxophonist John Coltrane's classic quartet.

Henderson's big band helped create swing music, and his arrangements were used by Benny Goodman's orchestra. Carter was a masterful scat singer known for her adventurous improvisations.

JALC has inducted 45 members into the Hall of Fame since 2004. □



In this undated photo provided by Andrew College, Fletcher Henderson Jr., a pianist, arranger and bandleader who is credited with ushering in the swing era of the 1920s and '30s, is shown.

Associated Press

"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

With kids grown, Washington wants more stage roles

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that his children are grown, you can expect to see a lot more of Denzel Washington on Broadway.

The Tony- and Oscar-winning actor, who is set to portray Walter Lee Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's classic play "A Raisin in the Sun," is lately finding more time for theater work.

"Up until nine years ago, I hadn't been here in 15 years, from 1990 until 2005. Basically, that was because of raising my kids, my wife and I," Washington said Tuesday.

He added: "It's impossible to commute from California to New York, or New York to California doing an eight-show week schedule. So once they got old



Denzel Washington appears at a press opportunity for the upcoming Broadway production of "A Raisin in the Sun" on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

enough, I could start coming back." Washington last appeared on Broadway in the 2010 revival of August Wilson's "Fences," where he picked up a best actor Tony. Before coming back to Broadway in 2005 to

play Brutus in "Julius Caesar," Washington hadn't appeared on a Broadway stage since 1988.

"I've been back three times in nine years. And I'll be back again, hopefully," Washington said. □

Playboy Jazz Festival to celebrate George Duke



Jazz pianist George Duke performs with bassist Stanley Clarke, background, at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Associated Press

CHARLES J. GANS
Associated Press

Singer Al Jarreau and bassist Stanley Clarke will celebrate the legacy of their friend and musical partner George Duke on the opening day of the 36th annual Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, which is presenting the festival for the first time, announced the lineup for the June 14-15

event on Monday. George Benson and fellow smooth jazz guitarist Earl Klugh will headline the closing concert. Saturday's concert will pay tribute to Duke, the keyboardist, singer, composer and producer who headlined last year's Playboy opener and was a frequent participant in the Los Angeles area's biggest jazz event. Duke, 67, died of leukemia last August shortly after releasing his chart-

topping contemporary jazz CD "Dreamweaver," which included a straight-ahead acoustic jazz track featuring Clarke.

Jarreau first performed with Duke in the house band at San Francisco's Half Note Club in the late '60s and the keyboardist was featured on the singer's 1981 album "Breakin' Away." Comedian George Lopez said he's "thrilled" to be hosting the Playboy festival again after taking over from long-time emcee Bill Cosby last year.

"This year's lineup of talent is unparalleled, and it's going to be a great weekend of music," Lopez said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press.

Saturday's lineup includes singer Dianne Reeves, who featured her cousin Duke on several of her albums; pianist Kenny Barron's trio with guest saxophonist Ravi Coltrane; trumpeter Arturo Sandoval's big band and British singer-pianist Jamie Cullum. □

On Sunday, the performers

Lupita Nyong'o is Hollywood's new fixation

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

Lupita Nyong'o is preparing herself for normalcy. After the frenzy that's followed her gripping performance in "12 Years a Slave," she wants to be ready for life back home in New York.

"I try to keep my regimen—rest, water, eat well, workout—so that when this is all over, I don't experience a total hangover," she says, taking a bite of scrambled eggs in a recent interview at a Beverly Hills cafe.

She hasn't yet accepted that her life may never be the same. "I have a very ostrich mentality," she says. "I feel like I have my head in the sand so no one can see me."

Before playing slave Patsey in Steve McQueen's brutal tale of a free black man kidnapped into slavery in the 19th century South, Nyong'o was virtually unknown. Now, as a supporting actress Oscar nominee, she's become a breakout star.

When she received the call from McQueen saying she had landed the role, "I was so elated," she recalls. "But then I immediately panicked. I was so scared."

No wonder; this would be her first major role after attending the Yale School of Drama. Yet shooting the film gave her the confidence she needed coming out of school. "It was an



In this Jan. 12, 2014 file photo, Lupita Nyong'o arrives at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

amazing feeling," she says. Now, with all eyes on what she'll do next, the actress refuses to stress about securing another role that's equally as celebrated.

"The bar has been set very high externally and internally," she says. "But I don't want to feed into that pressure of expectation. This film was so fulfilling and ar-

tistic. I've tasted that and I obviously want to experience that kind of creative fulfillment again, but I also know that I can't replicate that. I want a varied acting experience and that may include some failure and that's healthy."

Actually, Nyong'o's next film is already in the can and ready for release on

Feb. 28: She plays a flight attendant opposite Liam Neeson in the action-thriller "Non-Stop." "It was what I needed to do," she says. "It was the perfect antidote to '12 Years a Slave.' It was a different genre with different demands. It was very technical and fun."

Growing up in Kenya, Nyong'o says her parents encouraged her and her five siblings to "find out what we were called on this earth to do and then do it to excellence."

Before former Kenya president Daniel Arap Moi allowed multi-party politics in 1991, Nyong'o's father, Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, was an advocate for democratic reform, opposing Kenya's autocratic regime. Then a political science teacher, Nyong'o's father relocated his family to Mexico City for their safety. It was there that Nyong'o was born, yet her family returned to Kenya before she was a year old.

Nyong'o says her parents have been supportive of her Hollywood success but have also taken the excitement in stride. "It's nice to have parents like that because they're thrilled," she says. "But they're not shaken by it."

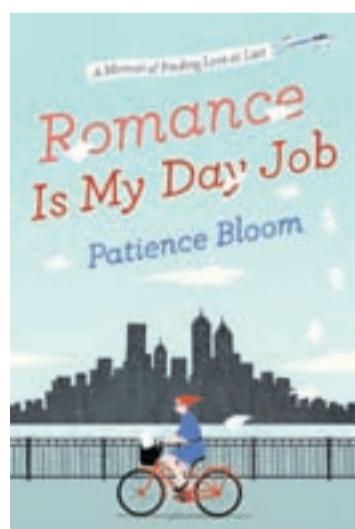
(Nyong'o's father is now a Kisumu County senator and her mother, Dorothy Nyong'o, is the managing director of the Africa Cancer Foundation.)

With the Academy Awards less than two weeks away, the 30-year-old actress says she wants to continue to savor every moment, even the overwhelming ones.

"The Hollywood Film Awards were really stressful," she remembers of the October ceremony, where she shared the spotlight with the likes of Julia Roberts and Matthew McConaughey. "It was the biggest press line I'd ever seen. It was difficult to orient myself, but there are familiar faces now, so it becomes less daunting."

Not only blessed with significant acting ability, Nyong'o's striking beauty and bold fashion choices have made her one of the most talked-about celebs on the red carpet.

From the turquoise Gucci column gown she wore to the Screen Actors Guild Awards to the emerald green Christian Dior dress she chose for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards last weekend, she's what "12 Years a Slave" screenwriter John Ridley calls "undeniably poised and graceful." Never the girl who thumbed through Vogue (now she appears in the magazine as the face of fashion house Miu Miu), Nyong'o began buying fashion magazines in preparation for all of the formal events she expected to attend following the success of "12 Years." □



This book cover image released by Dutton shows "Romance Is My Day Job," a memoir by Patience Bloom.

Associated Press

BOOK REVIEW

Romance novel editor tells of finding love

CAROLYN LESSARD

Associated Press

Patience Bloom works for a publishing house that's best known for its steamy romances with happy endings.

In "Romance Is My Day Job: a Memoir of Finding Love at Last," the bashful book editor chronicles her personal experiences from awkward prep school days, reckless college years and unsuccessful online dating to finally finding her "happily ever after" in her 40s. Bloom juxtaposes her ex-

periences with typical romance plots to demonstrate the stark contrast between fiction and reality. Wearing her insecurities as a badge of honor (she's afraid to fly, plagued by self-doubt and possesses an unruly red mane), she proves to be very human and most relatable. Her recollections will no doubt spark a few mortifying flashbacks from readers' own younger days.

As with many heroines in romance fiction, Bloom has faced conflict, includ-

ing an unexplained and heartbreakingly estrangement with her father. She appears to prevail with only a few occasional setbacks. "Romance Is My Day Job" is peppered with a few cringe-worthy moments, a la Bridget Jones. Desperate to find a soul mate, she gets involved with the campus bad boy.

After they split, she begs him (rather vocally) to take her back. Later she dates jerks like Nate the Spanker and constantly misreads—or ignores outright—the

signs from these would-be beaus.

She diffuses her tales of woe with witty observations and genuine self-reflection. After years of accumulating a stockpile of "lessons learned," she offers sage advice to women who are wading into the dating pool.

Bloom is eventually rescued by a knight in shining armor named Sam. He's a high school crush who seeks her out decades later, not on horseback, but on Facebook. □

Parental Pity Party



ROSS DOUTHAT
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When I became a father, I expected to change in all the predictable ways - to become more responsible and more exhausted, to lose contact with friends and lean more heavily on relatives, to grow steadily balder of head and softer of belly. What I didn't expect is that parenthood would make me such a whiner.

I'm not sure I've contributed personally to the Internet's ever-expanding Book of Parental Lamentations - what Ruth Graham, writing for Slate, calls the "endless stream of blog posts and status updates depicting the messy, tedious, nightmarishly life-destroying aspects of parenting." But in private conversation, I'm often the sort of parent Graham complains is scaring her away from motherhood - all too eager to Tell It Like It Really Is, and enumerate all the horrible aspects of the most wonderful thing that's ever happened to me.

Coming from the financially secure and happily married, this whining can feel unseemly, self-indulgent and unfair to one's kids. In my own case, it's also philosophically problematic, because a Catholic columnist should presumably be trying to talk his acquaintances into having as many kids as possible. But a not-so-quiet desperation can seem pervasive among parents, and it's worth trying to understand why.

Fortunately, Jennifer Senior's new book, "All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood," is an excellent primer on possible explanations for the great parental pity party. It ranges across the problems with U.S. family policy (basically, we don't have one), the changing role of children (who went, she notes, "from being our employees to our bosses"), the unsettling of gender roles, the "having it all" stresses inherent in the maternal quest for work-life balance, and the way economic uncertainty and technological change make it hard for parents to figure out what kind of world they're supposed to be preparing their children for.

But Senior's most insightful emphasis, I think, is on the gap that's opened - thanks to our society's extraordinary wealth and libertarian social ethic - between the lifestyles and choices available to nonparents and the irreducible burdens still involved in raising children.

As she puts it, parenthood is "the last binding obligation in a culture that asks for almost no other permanent commitments at all." In this sense, it isn't necessarily

that family life has changed that dramatically in the past few generations. Rather, it's stayed the same in crucial ways - because babies still need what babies need - while outside the domestic sphere there's been an expansion of opportunities, a proliferation of choices and entertainments and immediately available gratifications, that make child rearing seem much more burdensome by comparison.

This has two consequences for young, reasonably affluent Americans. First, it creates an understandable reluctance to give up the pleasures of extended brunches and long happy hours, late nights and weekend getaways, endless hours playing Grand Theft Auto or binge-watching "New Girl." Second, it inspires a ferocious shock when a child arrives and that oh-so-modern lifestyle gives way to challenges that seem almost medieval, and duties that seem impossibly absolute. And the longer the arrival is delayed, the greater that shock - because "postponing children," Senior points out, can make parents "far more aware of the freedoms they're giving up."

"Welcome," a colleague emailed me after our first daughter was born, "to unavoidable reality." Which is exactly right: In parts of American society, death and children's diapers are the only unavoidable realities left.

Unless, of course, you avoid the diapers by avoiding the children altogether, as the developed world's inhabitants are increasingly inclined to do.

In an earlier column, I described this retreat from childbearing as (in part) a symptom of cultural decadence, in which modern comforts crowd out intergenerational obligations. This idea was not well received by many readers, but I think it's actually the unacknowledged worldview behind a lot of the parental griping you find online and elsewhere: The "look how impossible my life has become since I had kids" genre is a way of passing judgment, not all that subtly, on people who have opted out of the parental mission altogether.

And though I agree with the implicit message - that parenting is tough, necessary and praiseworthy - a brag disguised as a whine about your own un-decadent hardships is probably not the best way to hold decadence at bay. Better for parents to be cheerful warriors, to emphasize the joy rather than the misery, while also extending tolerance and understanding - rather than judgment infused with envy - to friends and neighbors who choose a different path. Which is what I pledge to do from here on out. Enjoy your lingering brunches, my childless friends, and I'll enjoy my rushed meals and puree-stained fingers. Dirty diapers for me, dirty martinis for thee! Let peace and tolerance prevail!

And no, of course my angels had nothing whatsoever to do with that stain on your favorite sweater.

It must be béarnaise sauce. □



Professors, We Need You!



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Some of the smartest thinkers on problems at home and around the world are university professors, but most of them just don't matter in today's great debates. The most stinging dismissal of a point is to say: "That's academic." In other words, to be a scholar is, often, to be irrelevant. One reason is the anti-intellectualism in American life, the kind that led Rick Santorum to scold President Barack Obama as "a snob" for wanting more kids to go to college, or that led congressional Republicans to denounce spending on social science research. Yet it's not just that America has marginalized some of its sharpest minds. They have also marginalized themselves.

"All the disciplines have become more and more specialized and more and more quantitative, making them less and less accessible to the general public," notes Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former dean of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton and now the president of the New America Foundation.

There are plenty of exceptions, of course, including in economics, history and some sciences, in professional schools like law and business, and, above all, in schools of public policy; for that matter, we have a law professor in the White House. But, overall, there are, I think, fewer public intellectuals on U.S. university cam-

puses today than a generation ago.

A basic challenge is that Ph.D. programs have fostered a culture that glorifies arcane unintelligibility while disdaining impact and audience. This culture of exclusivity is then transmitted to the next generation through the publish-or-perish tenure process. Rebels are too often crushed or driven away.

"Many academics frown on public pontificating as a frivolous distraction from real research," said Will McCants, a Middle East specialist at the Brookings Institution. "This attitude affects tenure decisions. If the sine qua non for academic success is peer-reviewed publications, then academics who 'waste their time' writing for the masses will be penalized."

The latest attempt by academia to wall itself off from the world came when the executive council of the prestigious International Studies Association proposed that its publication editors be barred from having personal blogs. The association might as well scream: We want our scholars to be less influential!

A related problem is that academics seeking tenure must encode their insights into turgid prose. As a double protection against public consumption, this gobbledegook is then sometimes hidden in obscure journals - or published by university presses whose reputations for soporifics keep readers at a distance.

Jill Lepore, a Harvard historian who writes for *The New Yorker* and is an exception to everything said here, noted the result: "a great, heaping mountain of exquisite knowledge surrounded by a vast moat of dreadful prose."

As experiments, scholars have periodically submitted meaningless gibberish to scholarly journals - only to have the nonsense respectfully published.

My onetime love, political science, is a particular offender and seems to be trying, in terms of practical impact, to commit suicide.

"Political science Ph.D.s often aren't prepared to do real-world

analysis," says Ian Bremmer, a Stanford political science Ph.D. who runs the Eurasia Group, a consulting firm.

In the late 1930s and early '40s, one-fifth of articles in *The American Political Science Review* focused on policy prescriptions; at last count, the share was down to 0.3 percent.

Universities have retreated from area studies, so we have specialists in international theory who know little that is practical about the world. After the Arab Spring, a study by the Stimson Center looked back at whether various sectors had foreseen the possibility of upheavals. It found that scholars were among the most oblivious - partly because they relied upon quantitative models or theoretical constructs that had been useless in predicting unrest. Many academic disciplines also reduce their influence by neglecting political diversity. Sociology, for example, should be central to so many national issues, but it is so dominated by the left that it is instinctively dismissed by the right.

In contrast, economics is a rare academic field with a significant Republican presence, and that helps tether economic debates to real-world debates. That may be one reason, along with empiricism and rigor, why economists (including my colleague in column, Paul Krugman) shape debates on issues from health care to education.

Professors today have a growing number of tools available to educate the public, from online courses to blogs to social media. Yet academics have been slow to cast pearls through Twitter and Facebook. Likewise, it was TED Talks by nonscholars that made lectures fun to watch (but I owe a shout-out to the Teaching Company's lectures, which have enlivened our family's car rides).

I write this in sorrow, for I considered an academic career and deeply admire the wisdom found on university campuses. So, professors, don't cloister yourselves like medieval monks - we need you! □

Vegetables: The Real Stars Of Stew Season

MARK BITTMAN

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There is an extreme version of just about every stew you can name - beef stew, Irish stew, curry, cassoulet, bouillabaisse - in which vegetables are used, if at all, as "aromatics." You may start by sweating a little bit of onion, carrot, celery, maybe garlic, with a bay leaf and a thyme sprig, and then you proceed to brown your main ingredient, usually chunks of meat, and add some liquid.

It's difficult to believe that this tradition goes back much before the '50s, because so few people had access to the 2 pounds or more of meat that it takes to make a stew containing little else. From Henry IV to Herbert Hoover, the promise was made that every Sunday, there would be a chicken "in every pot." No one ever said "a half-pound of meat per person per day," which is about what we eat.

Politics and even nutritional arguments aside, a beef stew with a few token peas and carrots is not exactly a paradigm of complex flavors, nor does it have the tiniest hint of freshness. There's more complexity and interest in a stew of vegetables, with or without a little meat, than there is in the typical American version of "beef stew."

The whole thing needs to be rethought, and those feelings are particularly strong in the midst of stew season. I set about to do that a few years ago; the first recipe along those lines that I remember publishing, and one that remains one of my favorites, is "Cassoulet With Lots of Vegetables."

It is exactly what it sounds like, a dish in which vegetables (in this case, beans) are emphasized over your duck confit, your stewed lamb, your sausage and so on. It doesn't mean those things can't be included, only that they become special treats to be fished out, rather than the main feature. Think of a vegetable stir-fry with pork, as op-

posed to a pork stir-fry with token vegetables. If you apply the more-vegetables principle to stews, you'll be eating less meat, which is generally a good thing, and you'll probably be saving money. Even more important, I think, you'll be lightening and brightening dishes that are otherwise fairly dull standards.



Ribollita, a vegetable stew topped with bread and cheese, in New York. As with many dishes in the American diet, stews have become particularly overloaded with meat, but adapting recipes to re-emphasize the vegetables can have health benefits as well as being easy on the budget. (Melina Hammer/The New York Times)

RIBOLLITA

Time: About 50 minutes

5 tablespoons olive oil

1 small onion, chopped

1 carrot, chopped

1 celery stalk, chopped

1 tablespoon minced garlic

Salt and ground black pepper

2 cups cooked or canned cannellini beans

1 15-ounce can whole peeled tomatoes

4 cups vegetable stock or water

1 fresh rosemary sprig

1 fresh thyme sprig

1 pound chopped kale or escarole

4 large, thick slices whole-grain bread, toasted

1 small red onion, thinly sliced

1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan

1. Put 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large pot over medium heat. When it's hot, add onion, carrot, celery and garlic; sprinkle with salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are soft, 5 to 10 minutes.

2. Heat the oven to 500 degrees. Drain the beans; if they're canned, rinse them as well. Add them to the

under the broiler, you can also brown the top there.) Divide the soup and bread among 4 bowls and serve. Yield: 4 servings

PROVENÇAL FISH STEW

Time: 30 minutes

1 cup cooked or canned chickpeas

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 cup fresh breadcrumbs

Salt and ground black pep-

over medium heat. When it's hot, add breadcrumbs, sprinkle with salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until they're crisp and toasted, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from pan.

2. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the skillet; increase heat to medium-high. When oil is hot, add garlic, olives, capers and anchovies. Cook, stirring

pot along with tomatoes and their juices and stock, rosemary and thyme. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat so the soup bubbles steadily; cover and cook, stirring once or twice to break up the tomatoes, until the flavors meld, 15 to 20 minutes.

3. Fish out and discard rosemary and thyme stems, if you like, and stir in kale. Taste and adjust seasoning. Lay bread slices on top of the stew so they cover the top and overlap as little as possible. Scatter red onion slices over the top, drizzle with the remaining 3 tablespoons oil and sprinkle with Parmesan.

4. Put the pot in the oven and bake until the bread, onions and cheese are browned and crisp, 10 to 15 minutes. (If your pot fits

per

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1/4 cup niçoise or oil-cured olives, pitted and chopped

1 tablespoon capers, chopped

2 or 3 anchovy fillets, finely chopped

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1 pound spinach

2 cups fish or vegetable stock, or water

Pinch red chili flakes (optional)

8 ounces squid, roughly chopped

8 ounces shrimp, roughly chopped

1. Drain chickpeas. If you used dried, reserve cooking liquid; if they are canned, discard the liquid and rinse the chickpeas. Put 2 tablespoons oil in a large skillet

occasionally, until fragrant, a minute or two. Add tomato paste and cook, stirring occasionally, until it darkens slightly, 2 to 3 minutes.

3. Start adding spinach a handful at a time; keep stirring until all the spinach fits in the pan and starts to release its water; sprinkle with a little more pepper, then add the stock, chickpeas and red chili flakes if you're using them. Adjust the heat so the mixture bubbles gently but steadily, then stir in the squid and the shrimp. Cook until the seafood is just cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes.

4. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Divide among bowls, sprinkle with bread-crumb and serve. Yield: 4 servings